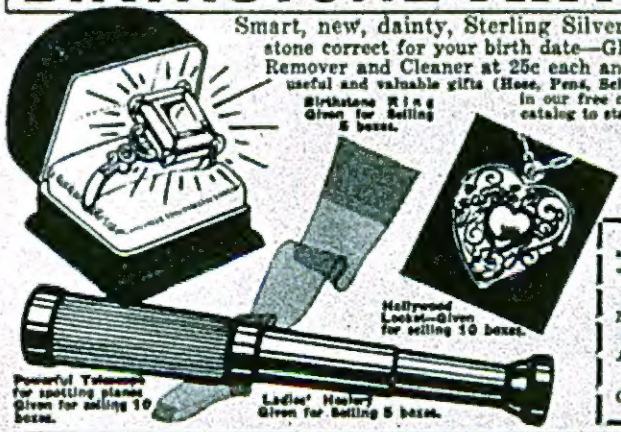
CAPTAIN AMERICA
10¢
NO. 44
JANUARY
COMICS
DETONATOR BOX
THE HUMAN TORCH!
IN THIS ISSUE!

Beautiful Simulated BIRTHSTONE RING GIVEN AWAY

Also Other Valuable Gifts.


Birthstone Ring Given for Selling 5 boxes.
Hollywood Locket—Given for selling 10 boxes.
Powerful Telescope for spotting planes Given for selling 10 boxes.
Ladies' Watch Given for Selling 5 boxes.

Smart, new, dainty, Sterling Silver Ring set with sparkling simulated Birthstone correct for your birth date—GIVEN for selling only 5 boxes of Gold Crown Spot Remover and Cleaner at 25c each and returning the money collected. Dozens of other useful and valuable gifts (Hose, Pens, Scissors, Rings, Lockets, Costume Jewelry, etc.) are also offered in our free catalog-circular. Send name and address today for order and catalog to start.

Just Send The Coupon We TRUST You

Many feel it's lucky to wear their birthstone. Send coupon today.

GOLD CROWN PRODUCTS, Dept. E-193 Jefferson, Iowa

Enclose this coupon in an envelope or paste it on a postcard and send it to GOLD CROWN PRODUCTS, Dept. E-193 Jefferson, Iowa, for order to start.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY..... STATE.....

Gift I would like to have you send me.

.....

.....

New ENLARGEMENT 3¢ STAMP

Just to Get Acquainted We Will Beautifully Enlarge Your Favorite Snapshot, Photo, Kodak Picture, Print or Negative to 5 x 7 Inches If You Enclose the Coupon and a 3 Cent Stamp for Return Mailing!

Everyone admires pictures in natural colors because the surroundings and loved ones are so true to life, just the way they looked when the pictures were taken, so we want you to know also about our gorgeous colored enlargements. Think of having that small picture or snapshot enlarged to 5 by 7-inch size so that the details and features you love are more life-like and natural.

Over one million men and women have sent us their favorite snapshots and pictures for enlarging. Thousands write us how much they also enjoy their remarkably true-to-life, natural colored enlargements we have sent them in handsome black and gold, or ivory and gold frames.

You are now given a wonderful opportunity to receive a beautiful enlargement of your cherished snapshot, photo or Kodak picture. Please include the color of hair and eyes and get our new bargain offer giving you your choice of handsome frames with a second enlargement beautifully hand tinted in natural lifelike oil colors and sent on approval. Your original is returned with your enlargement. This amazing enlargement offer is our way of getting acquainted and letting you know the quality of our work. Send today as supplies are limited.

Enclose this coupon with your favorite snapshot, picture or negative and send to DEAN STUDIOS, Dept. 974, 211 W. 7th St., Des Moines, Iowa.

Name .....

Address .....

City..... State.....

Color of Hair .....

Color of Eyes .....

DEAN STUDIOS, Dept. 974, 211 W. 7th St., Des Moines, Iowa

Hollywood Remembrance LOCKET

Dainty, New, Two-Tone

Beautiful lockets are in style today more than ever, not only because of their extraordinary beauty, but also for the reason that so many ladies want to have pictures of their loved ones near to them at all times. The 18-inch chain has a special safety lock fastener. No other keepsake is so precious and ornamental as this beautiful locket.

Each locket has snap-lock and a substantial hinge. Opens easily and provides 2 spaces on the inside for pictures of loved ones.

Supplies are limited

Supply Limited

$1.95 Ten Days Trial

SEND NO MONEY

The front of the locket is new, two-tone design with sentimental heart and red roses in life-like colors. Send no money. Just mail the coupon today. Your package will be sent immediately and you pay postman only $1.95 plus a few cents for mailing costs and 20% Federal tax, on arrival. 10 Days Money-Back Guarantee.

Send the Coupon Today

EMPIRE DIAMOND CO.

Dept. 106 H.V. Jefferson, Iowa

Empire Diamond Co., Dept. 106 H.V. Jefferson, Iowa.

Send the New, 2-Tone Locket. I understand I can return my order within 10 days for any reason and you will refund promptly.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... State.....

CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS is published monthly at Meriden, Conn., by Complete Photo Story Corp. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Meriden, Conn., under Act of March 3, 1879.

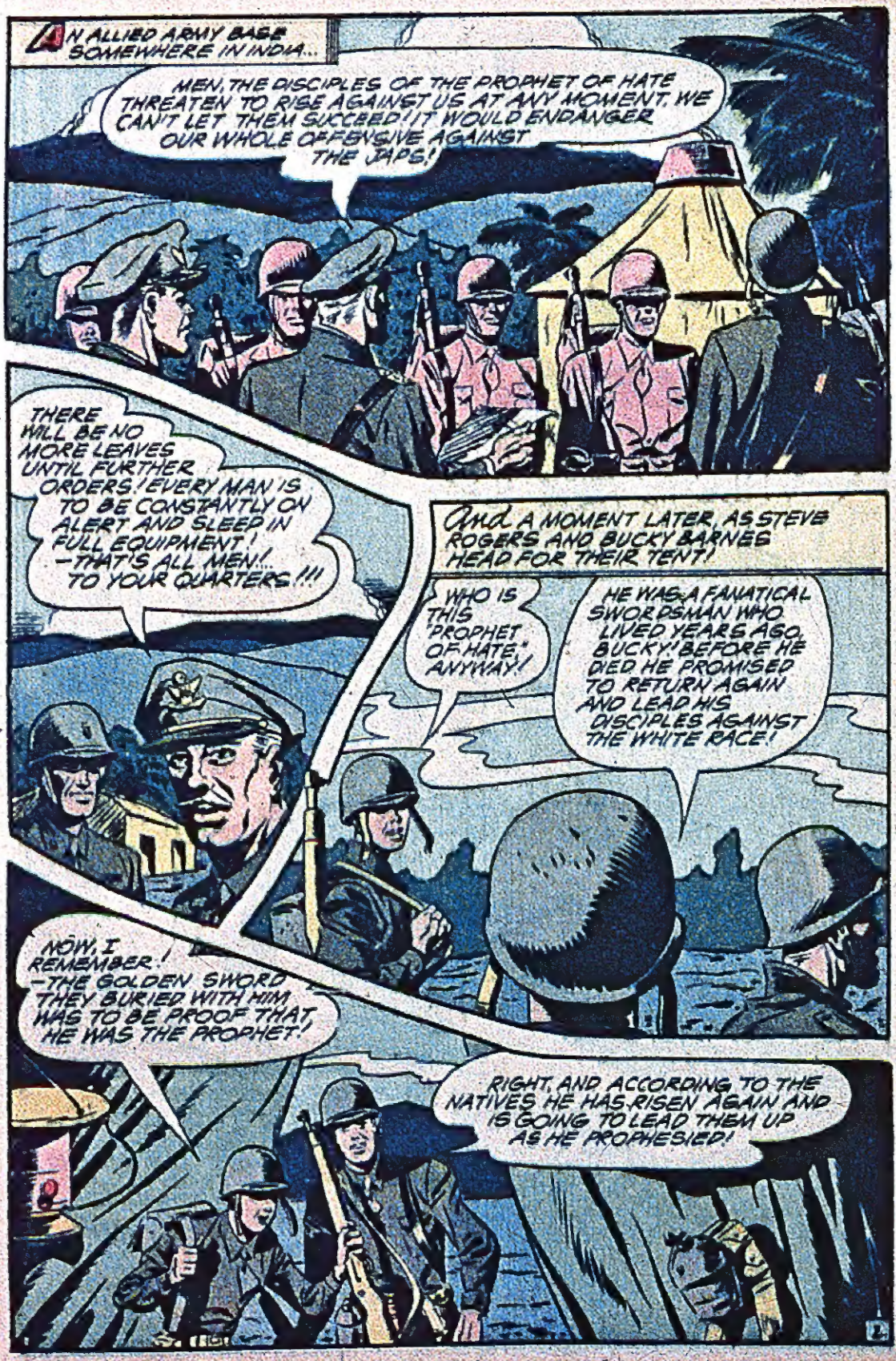
Contents copyright 1944 by Complete Photo Story Corp., 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., Martin Goodman, Pres.

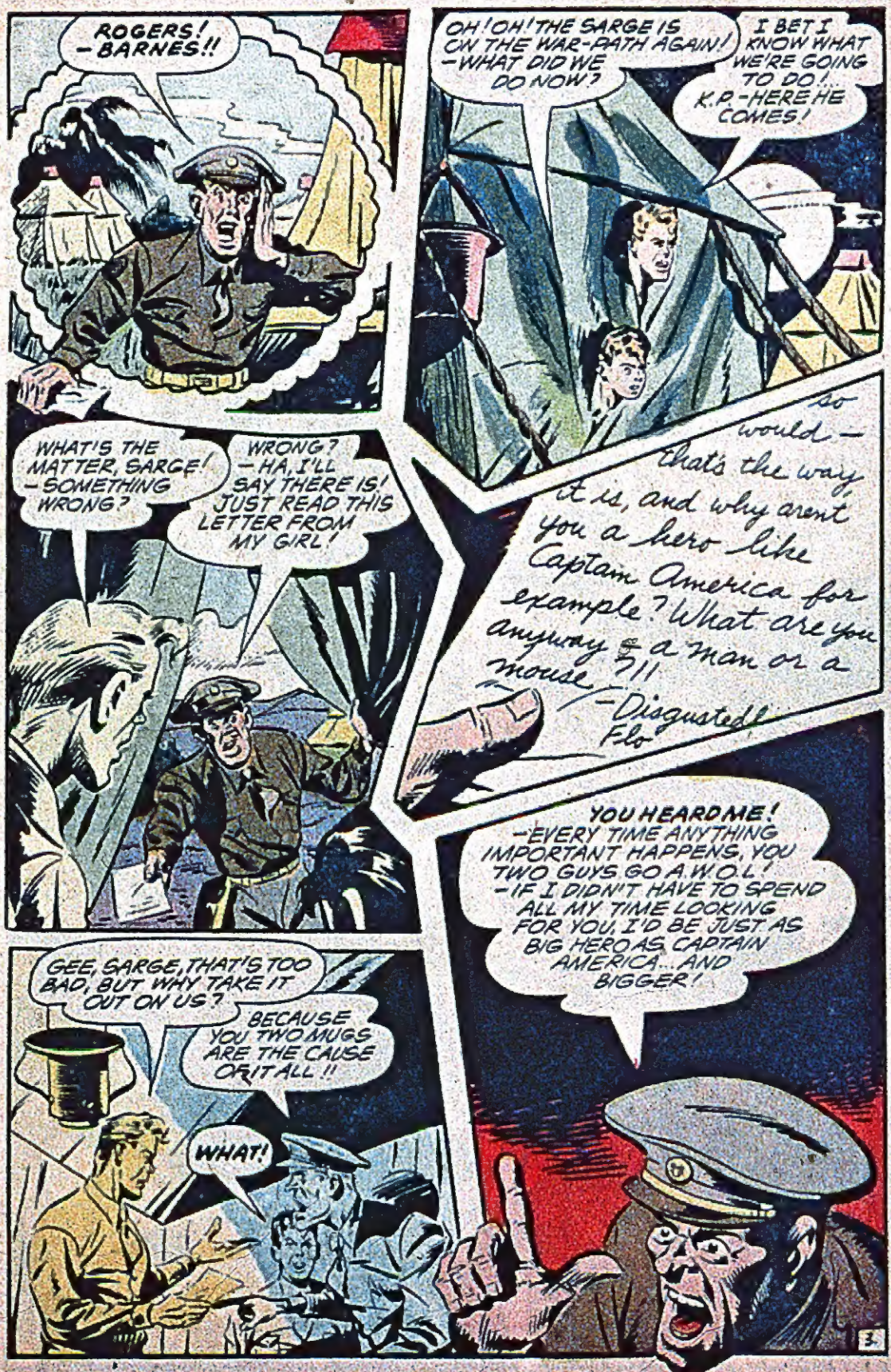
Vol. 2, No. 44 January, 1945 issue. Yearly subscription $1.00 in the U.S.A.

No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and that any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

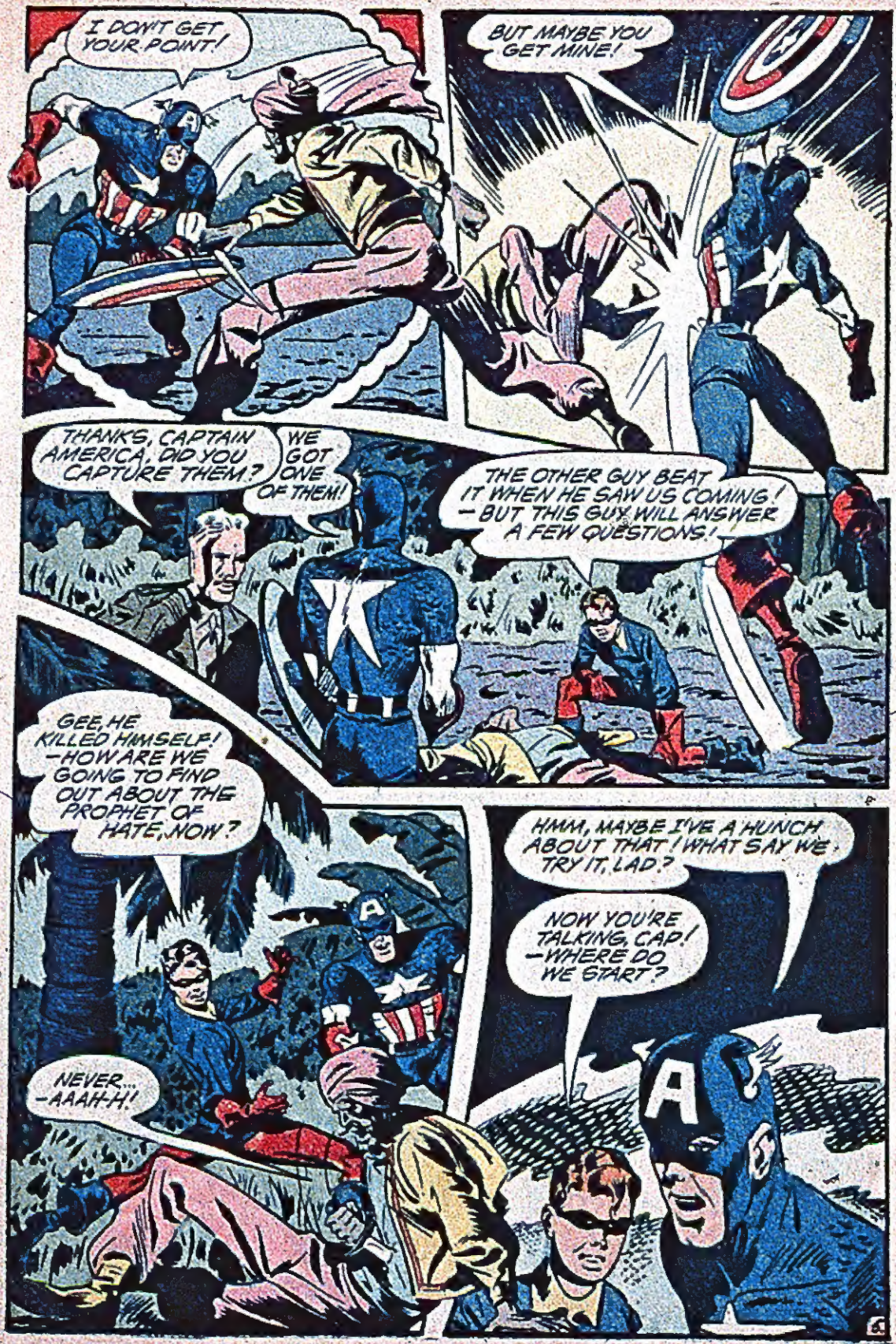
Printed in the U.S.A.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
IN The PROPHET of HATE!
OUT OF MYSTERIOUS, ANCIENT INDIA COMES THE DREAD SPECTRE OF A LONG DEAD PAST - THE PROPHET OF HATE, RISEN FROM THE TOMB TO SUMMON HIS MURDERING MINIONS TO A SCOURGE OF EVIL! BUT THE BLOODTHIRSTY GHOUL MORE THAN MEETS HIS MATCH IN TWO ROOKIE PRIVATES WHO GO A.W.O.L. TO BECOME - CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY!

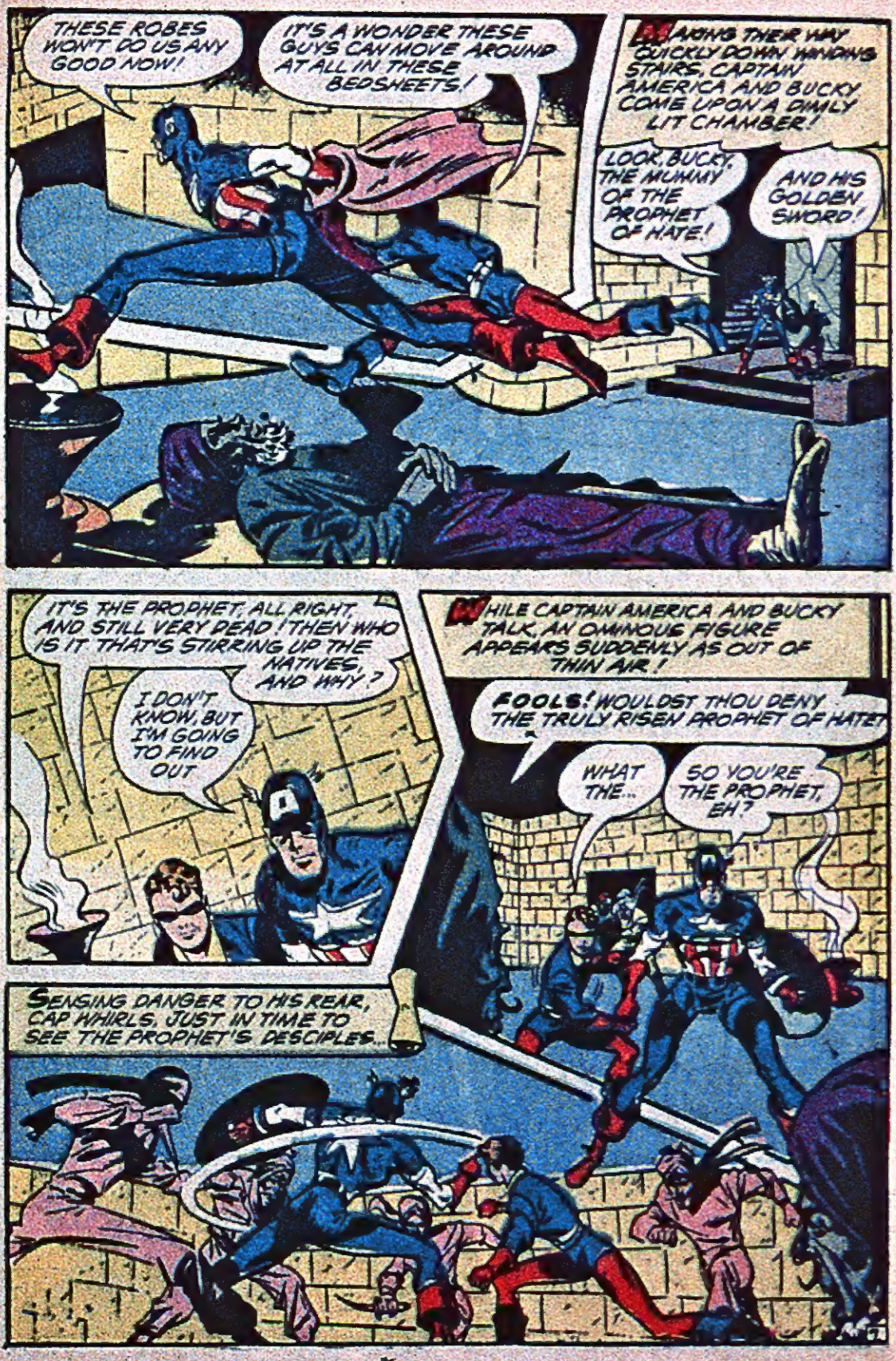

AN ALLIED ARMY BASE SOMEWHERE IN INDIA...
MEN, THE DISCIPLES OF THE PROPHET OF HATE THREATEN TO RISE AGAINST US AT ANY MOMENT. WE CAN'T LET THEM SUCCEED! IT WOULD ENDANGER OUR WHOLE OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE JAPS!
THERE WILL BE NO MORE LEAVES UNTIL FURTHER ORDERS! EVERY MAN IS TO BE CONSTANTLY ON ALERT AND SLEEP IN FULL EQUIPMENT! —THAT'S ALL MEN!... TO YOUR QUARTERS!!!
And A MOMENT LATER, AS STEVE ROGERS AND BUCKY BARNES HEAD FOR THEIR TENT!
WHO IS THIS "PROPHET OF HATE," ANYWAY!
HE WAS A FANATICAL SWORDSMAN WHO LIVED YEARS AGO, BUCKY! BEFORE HE DIED HE PROMISED TO RETURN AGAIN AND LEAD HIS DISCIPLES AGAINST THE WHITE RACE!
NOW, I REMEMBER! —THE GOLDEN SWORD THEY BURIED WITH HIM WAS TO BE PROOF THAT HE WAS THE PROPHET!
RIGHT, AND ACCORDING TO THE NATIVES HE HAS RISEN AGAIN AND IS GOING TO LEAD THEM UP AS HE PROPHESIED!


ROGERS! -BARNES!!
OH! OH! THE SARGE IS ON THE WAR-PATH AGAIN! -WHAT DID WE DO NOW?
I BET I KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO!... K.P. -HERE HE COMES!
so would -
that's the way it is, and why aren't you a hero like Captain America for example? What are you anyway a man or a mouse ?!!
-Disgusted Flo
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SARGE! -SOMETHING WRONG?
WRONG? -HA, I'LL SAY THERE IS! JUST READ THIS LETTER FROM MY GIRL!
YOU HEARD ME! -EVERY TIME ANYTHING IMPORTANT HAPPENS, YOU TWO GUYS GO A.W.O.L! -IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO SPEND ALL MY TIME LOOKING FOR YOU, I'D BE JUST AS BIG HERO AS CAPTAIN AMERICA...AND BIGGER!
GEE, SARGE, THAT'S TOO BAD, BUT WHY TAKE IT OUT ON US?
BECAUSE YOU TWO MUGS ARE THE CAUSE OF IT ALL!!
WHAT!
3

HAW!
GO AHEAD, LAUGH!.. BUT I'LL SHOW YOU... AND SOONER THAN YOU THINK! I'VE GOT PLANS FOR TAKING CARE OF THIS HERE "PROPHET OF HATE" GUY, PERSONALLY!
TOO BAD ABOUT DUFFY AND HIS GIRL! REALLY, IT'S PARTLY OUR FAULT!
MAYBE WE CAN FIX THINGS FOR HIM! HE'S NOT SUCH A BAD EGG AT THAT!
AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CAMP!
COME! WE ATTACK NOW!
WHO TH... OOOH!!
HEY, STEVE, LOOK!
THEY'RE PROBABLY DESCIPLES OF THE PROPHET OF HATE! —AND THEY'RE AFTER THE C.O.!!!
THE BOYS MAKE A QUICK CHANGE, AND CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY PLUNGE INTO ACTION!
C'MON, BUCKY, —STEP ON IT!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, CAP!

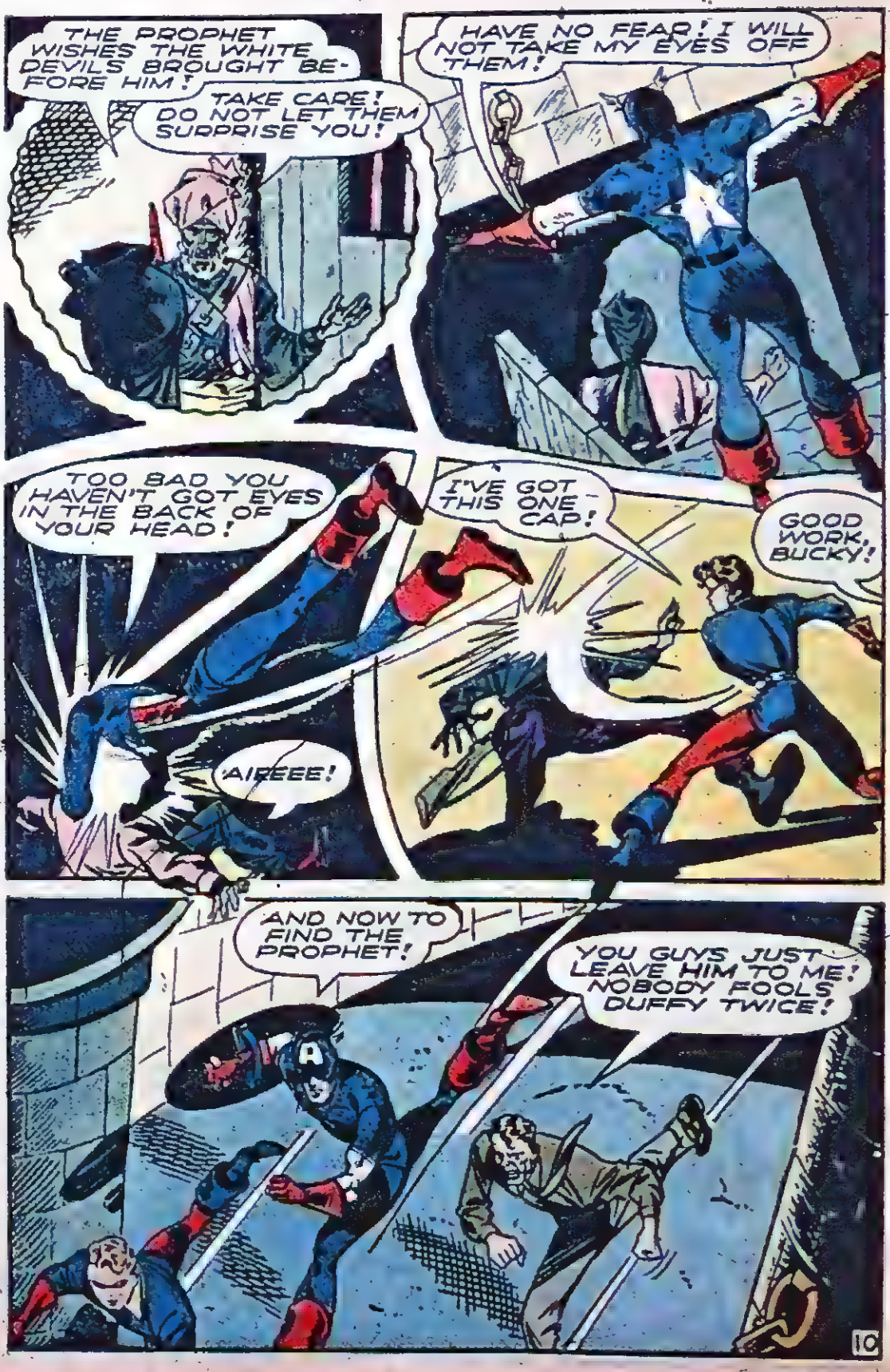

I DON'T GET YOUR POINT!
BUT MAYBE YOU GET MINE!
THANKS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, DID YOU CAPTURE THEM?
WE GOT ONE OF THEM!
THE OTHER GUY BEAT IT WHEN HE SAW US COMING! —BUT THIS GUY WILL ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS!
GEE, HE KILLED HIMSELF! —HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE PROPHET OF HATE, NOW?
HMM, MAYBE I'VE A HUNCH ABOUT THAT! WHAT SAY WE TRY IT, LAD?
NOW YOU'RE TALKING, CAP! —WHERE DO WE START?
NEVER... —AAAH-H!

And MINUTES LATER, AT THE "TOMB OF THE PROPHET!"
IF HIS MUMMY AND SWORD ARE STILL THERE, WE'LL KNOW THAT THIS OTHER PROPHET IS AN IMPOSTER! — BETTER PUT ON THESE NATIVE ROBES, THOUGH... WE'LL LOOK SUSPICIOUS!
RIGHT, CAP!
And, AS THEY REACH THE TOMB OF THE PROPHET!
WELL, THIS IS IT!. BUT HOW DO WE GET IN?
FRONT DOOR! — NOTHING LIKE A DIRECT APPROACH!
THEIR DISGUISE GIVES THEM EASY ACCESS AND CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY HURRY BOLDLY DOWN THE DARKENED CORRIDOR!
WHEW! IT'S DARKER IN HERE THAN THE INSIDE OF AN EIGHT BALL!
THE PASS WORD IS...
When SUDDENLY...
THE PASS WORD! -SPEAK OR DIE!
OWW!

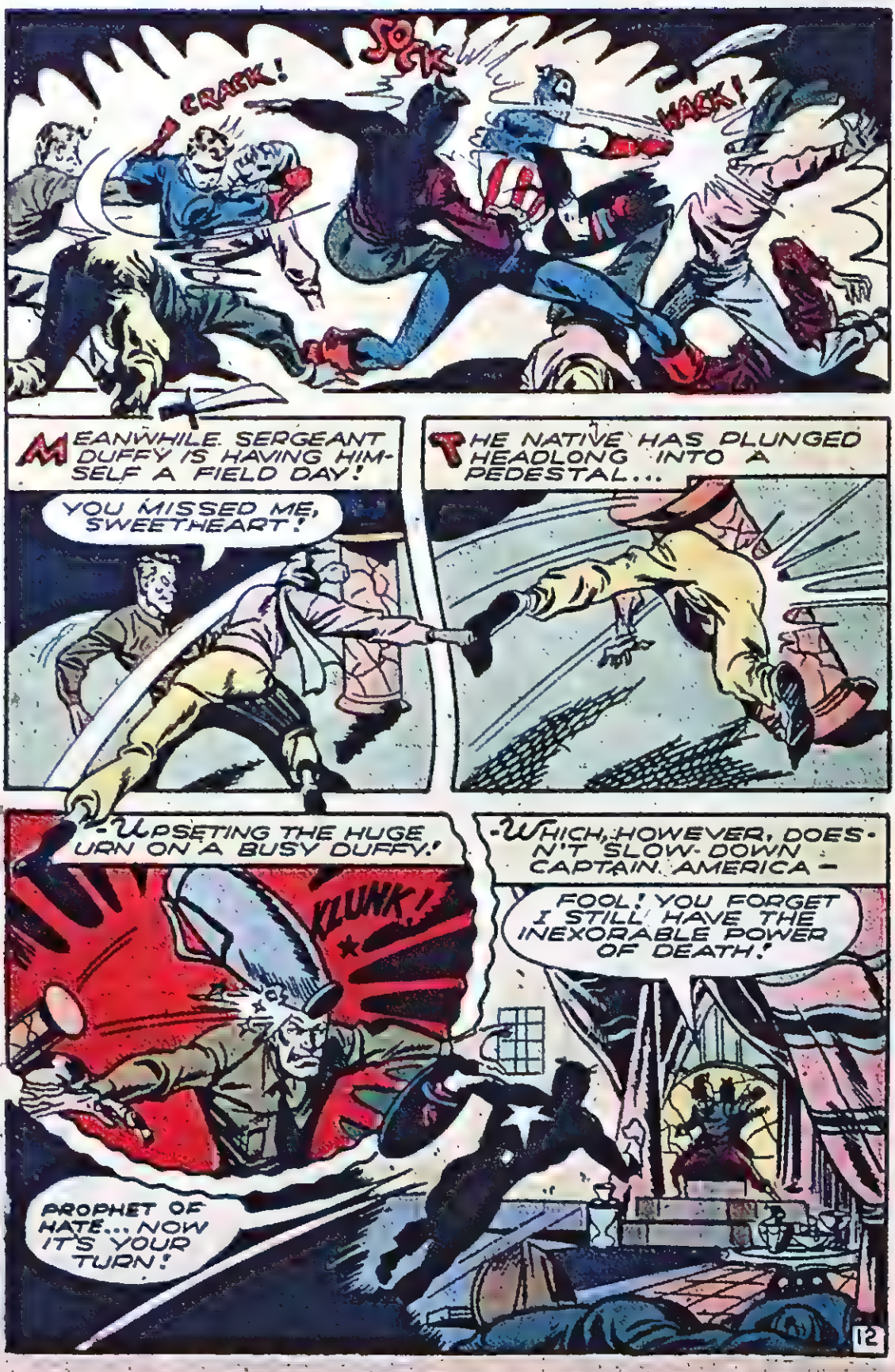

THESE ROBES WON'T DO US ANY GOOD NOW!
IT'S A WONDER THESE GUYS CAN MOVE AROUND AT ALL IN THESE BEDSHEETS!
MAKING THEIR WAY QUICKLY DOWN WINDING STAIRS, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY COME UPON A DIMLY LIT CHAMBER!
LOOK, BUCKY, THE MUMMY OF THE PROPHET OF HATE!
AND HIS GOLDEN SWORD!
IT'S THE PROPHET, ALL RIGHT, AND STILL VERY DEAD! THEN WHO IS IT THAT'S STIRRING UP THE NATIVES, AND WHY?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT
WHILE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY TALK, AN OMINOUS FIGURE APPEARS SUDDENLY AS OUT OF THIN AIR!
FOOLS! WOULDST THOU DENY THE TRULY RISEN PROPHET OF HATE?
WHAT THE...
SO YOU'RE THE PROPHET, EH?
SENSING DANGER TO HIS REAR, CAP WHIRLS, JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE PROPHET'S DESCIPLES...

BUT NOT IN TIME TO DODGE A VICIOUS BLOW!
UGH!
OUTNUMBERED, BUCKY TOO, IS QUICKLY OVERCOME!!!
I WILL GIVE YOU FINAL INDISPUTABLE PROOF THAT I AM THE PROPHET OF HATE! BRING ME A DISBELIEVER!
YES, MASTER!
MISERABLE WRETCH! —I COMMAND THEE...
DIE!
HOLY SMOKE, CAP! —HE COMMANDED HIM TO DIE AND HE DID!
AHH!
THROW THESE WHITE DOGS INTO THE DUNGEON WITH THE OTHERS! I WILL DECIDE THE MEANS OF THEIR DEATHS LATER!

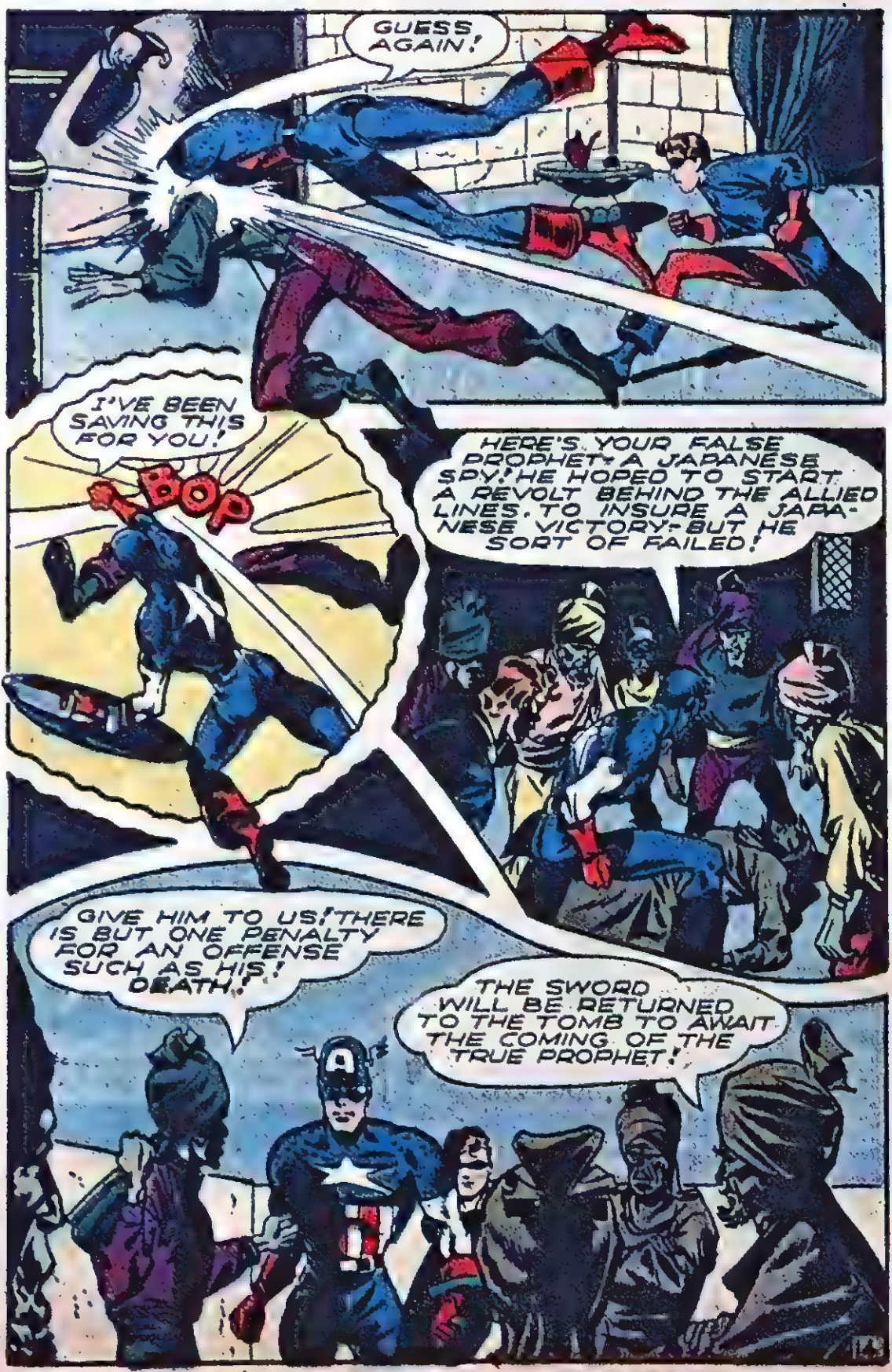
AS CAP AND BUCKY ARE HURLED INTO THE DUNGEON, THEY NOTICE ANOTHER FIGURE HUDDLED IN THE FAR CORNER!
LOOKS LIKE THE PROPHET DIDN'T WANT US TO GET LONESOME! —WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
WHO IS IT?
AND, PROMPTLY GET THE SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES!
IT'S SERGEANT DUFFY! GOOD HEAVENS, HOW DID HE GET IN HERE?
WHAT THE.. —CAPTAIN AMERICA! —DID THE PROPHET THROW YOU IN HERE TOO?
THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE!
THE WALLS ARE TEN FEET THICK! —LOOKS LIKE WE'LL JUST HAVE TO STAY HERE UNTIL THEY COME AND GET US!
THAT'S IT! WE'LL LET THE PROPHET'S MEN HELP US ESCAPE! THAT HEAVY MOULDING AROUND THE DOOR GIVES ME AN IDEA!
GIVE ME A BOOST, SERGEANT DUFFY!
HURRY, CAP! —I HEAR SOMEONE COMING!
I HOPE THIS WORKS!


THE PROPHET WISHES THE WHITE DEVILS BROUGHT BEFORE HIM!
TAKE CARE! DO NOT LET THEM SURPRISE YOU!
HAVE NO FEAR! I WILL NOT TAKE MY EYES OFF THEM!
TOO BAD YOU HAVEN'T GOT EYES IN THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD!
AIEEEE!
I'VE GOT THIS ONE - CAP!
GOOD WORK, BUCKY!
AND NOW TO FIND THE PROPHET!
YOU GUYS JUST LEAVE HIM TO ME! NOBODY FOOLS DUFFY TWICE!
10

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE TEMPLE —
HARKEN, MY DISCIPLES, TO THE WORD OF YOUR MASTER! THE TIME HAS COME TO DRIVE THE WORTHLESS WHITE DOGS FROM OUR LAND!
ARISE! FOLLOW ME!
KILL! KILL!
BUT AT THAT MOMENT A THREE-MAN TORNADO HITS THE KILL-CRAZY MOB!
READY, BOYS! HERE COMES ACTION!
AND WILLING!
READY!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
SEIZE THE DEFILERS OF THE TEMPLE!
YOU HEARD HIM— WHY DON'T YOU SEIZE US?
11


CRACK!
SOCK!
WHACK!
MEANWHILE SERGEANT DUFFY IS HAVING HIMSELF A FIELD DAY!
YOU MISSED ME, SWEETHEART!
THE NATIVE HAS PLUNGED HEADLONG INTO A PEDESTAL...
-UPSETING THE HUGE URN ON A BUSY DUFFY!
KLUNK!
-WHICH, HOWEVER, DOESN'T SLOW DOWN CAPTAIN AMERICA —
FOOL! YOU FORGET I STILL HAVE THE INEXORABLE POWER OF DEATH!
PROPHET OF HATE... NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!
12

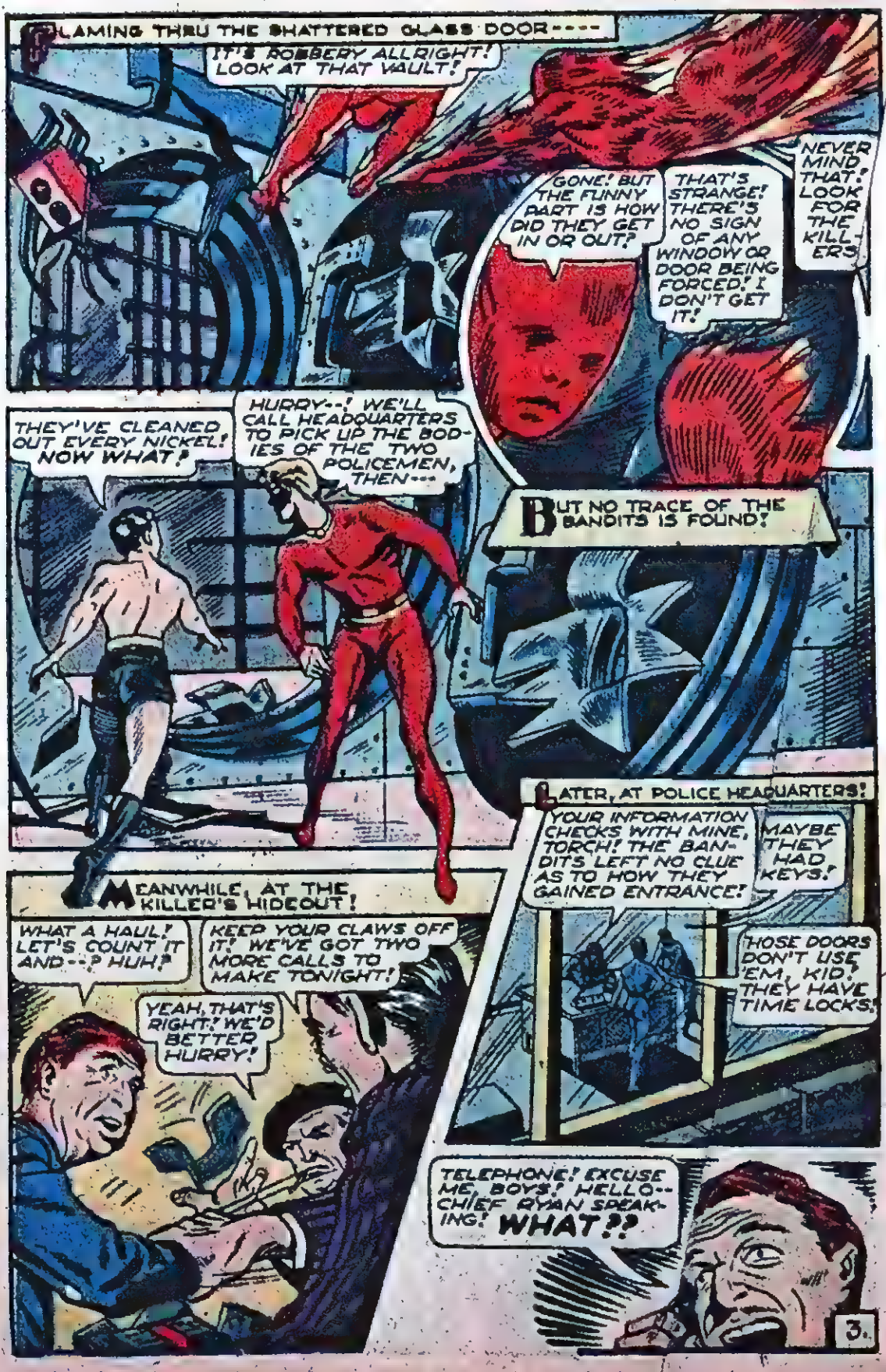
THIS TEMPLE WILL BE YOUR TOMB!..I COMMAND YOU – DIE!
SOMETHING'S CHOKING ME – AGHHH.....
AS CAP STRUGGLES DESPERATELY FOR BREATH, BUCKY'S KEEN EYES GLIMPSE A MOVING SHADOW BEHIND A SCREEN-AND HIS MUSCLES AND BRAIN SUDDENLY MOVE LIKE LIGHTNING!
SO THAT'S HOW THE PROPHET KILLED! HE HAD YOU HIDDEN BEHIND THIS SCREEN, AND WHEN HE GAVE THE COMMAND TO DIE, YOU THREW A BULL-ROARER, AN ALMOST INVISIBLE NOOSE, AROUND THE VICTIM'S NECK, THROTTLING HIM!
HANG ON, CAP! I'M COMING!
THANKS, LAD! IF YOU HADN'T DISCOVERED THAT ANCIENT INDIAN DEVICE FOR MURDER, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHANCE AGAINST IT!.. NOW FOR THE PROPHET!
HE WON'T GET AWAY THIS TIME!
YOU HAVEN'T GOT ME YET, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

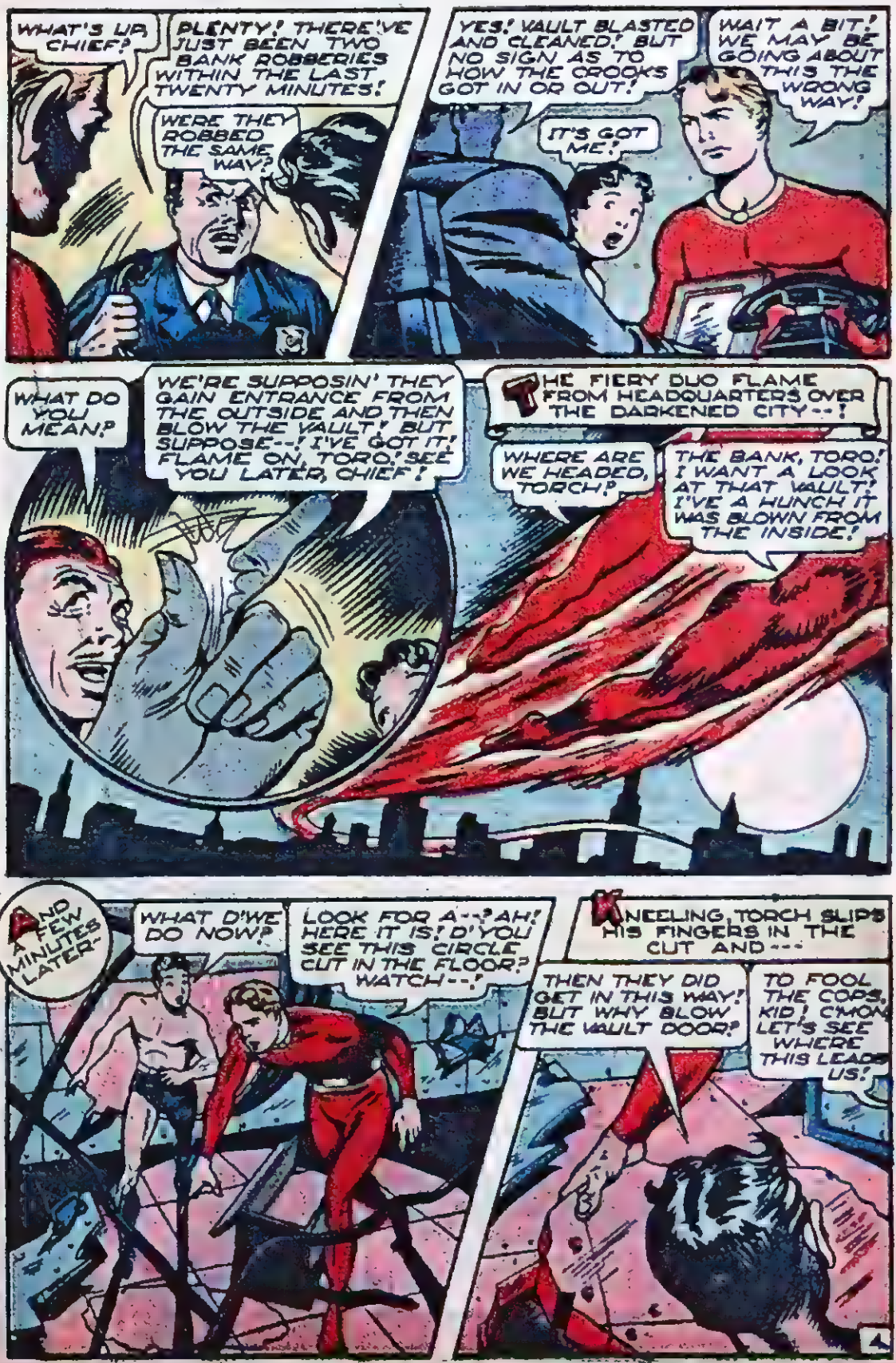

GUESS AGAIN!
I'VE BEEN SAVING THIS FOR YOU!
BOP
HERE'S YOUR FALSE PROPHET- A JAPANESE SPY! HE HOPED TO START A REVOLT BEHIND THE ALLIED LINES. TO INSURE A JAPANESE VICTORY- BUT HE SORT OF FAILED!
GIVE HIM TO US! THERE IS BUT ONE PENALTY FOR AN OFFENSE SUCH AS HIS! DEATH!
THE SWORD WILL BE RETURNED TO THE TOMB TO AWAIT THE COMING OF THE TRUE PROPHET!

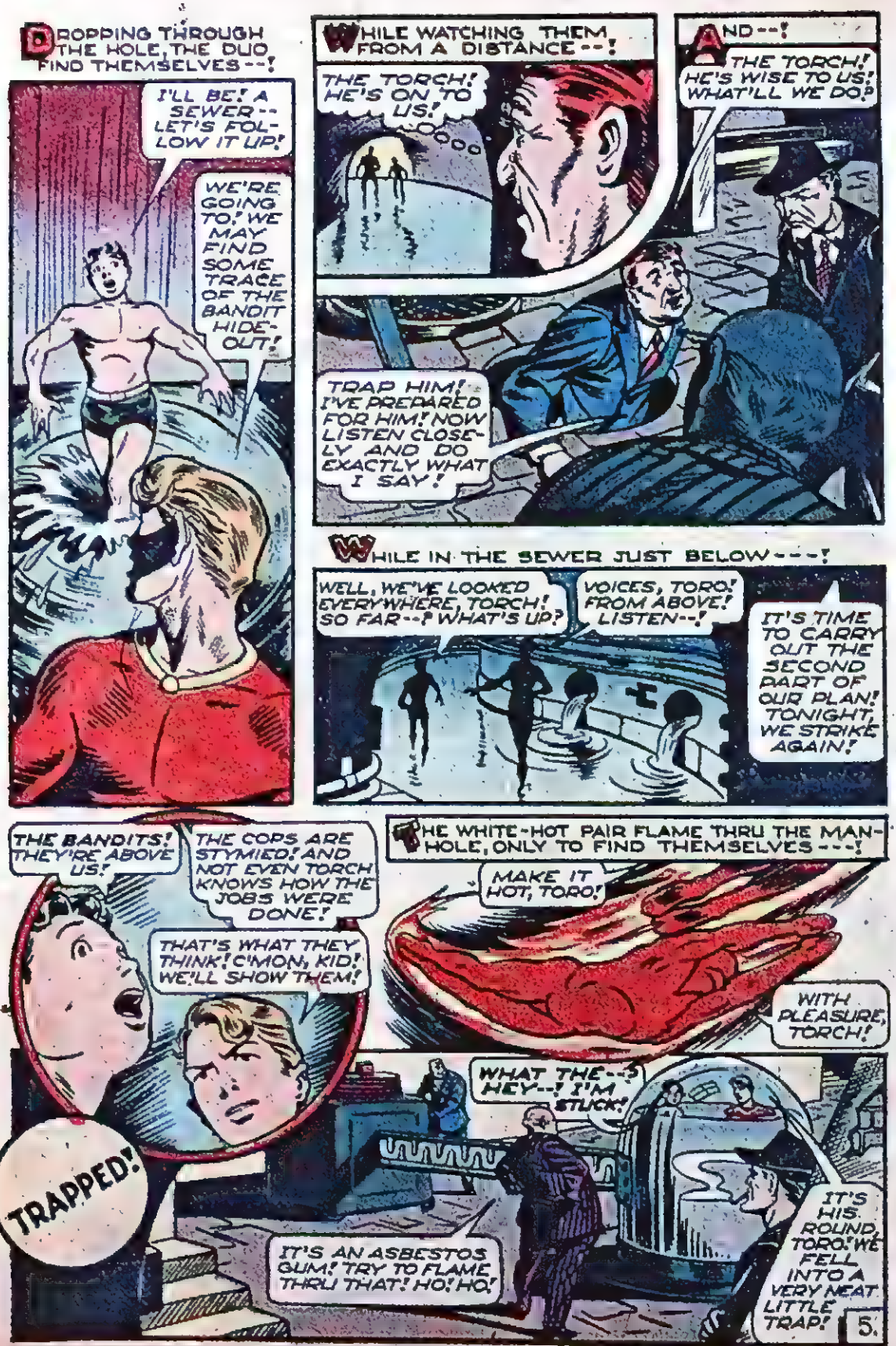
A FEW SECONDS LATER...
HEY, SARGE!-'ER, I MEAN SERGEANT DUFFY!- WAKE UP!
SAY, WHA!.. WHAT HAPPENED!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? YOU UNMASKED THE PROPHET OF HATE AS A JAPANESE SPY! YOU'RE A HERO!
YOU'LL GET AT LEAST ONE MEDAL, MAYBE TWO OR THREE!
BUT HOW DID I DO IT?.. 'ER, I MEAN, I DID?- I WILL?
--- SURE!
AND SOMETIME LATER, BACK AT CAMP -
SHUCKS, FELLERS! IT WAS NUTTIN'! I CLEANED 'EM OUT SINGLEHANDED- WELL, ALMOST SINGLEHANDED! I GOT A LITTLE HELP FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY!..
SINCE DUFFY BECAME A "HERO" AND GOT BACK IN HIS GIRL'S GOOD GRACES, HE'S ALMOST HUMAN! WE SHOULDN'T GET A K.P. DETAIL FOR A COUPLE WEEKS AT LEAST!
MAYBE NOT FOR THE REST OF THE WAR!
HEY! ROGERS! BARNES! KITCHEN DETAIL IS OVER THIS WAY! FALL IN!
BUT, SARGE-
WHO SAID SOMETHING ABOUT NO MORE K.P. FOR THE DURATION!
AW, WELL, IT JUST GOES TO PROVE WHAT I'VE ALWAYS SAID- SERGEANTS JUST AIN'T HUMAN BEINGS- ESPECIALLY DUFFY!
THE END

THE
HUMAN TORCH
VS.
The BANDIT MURDER GANG!

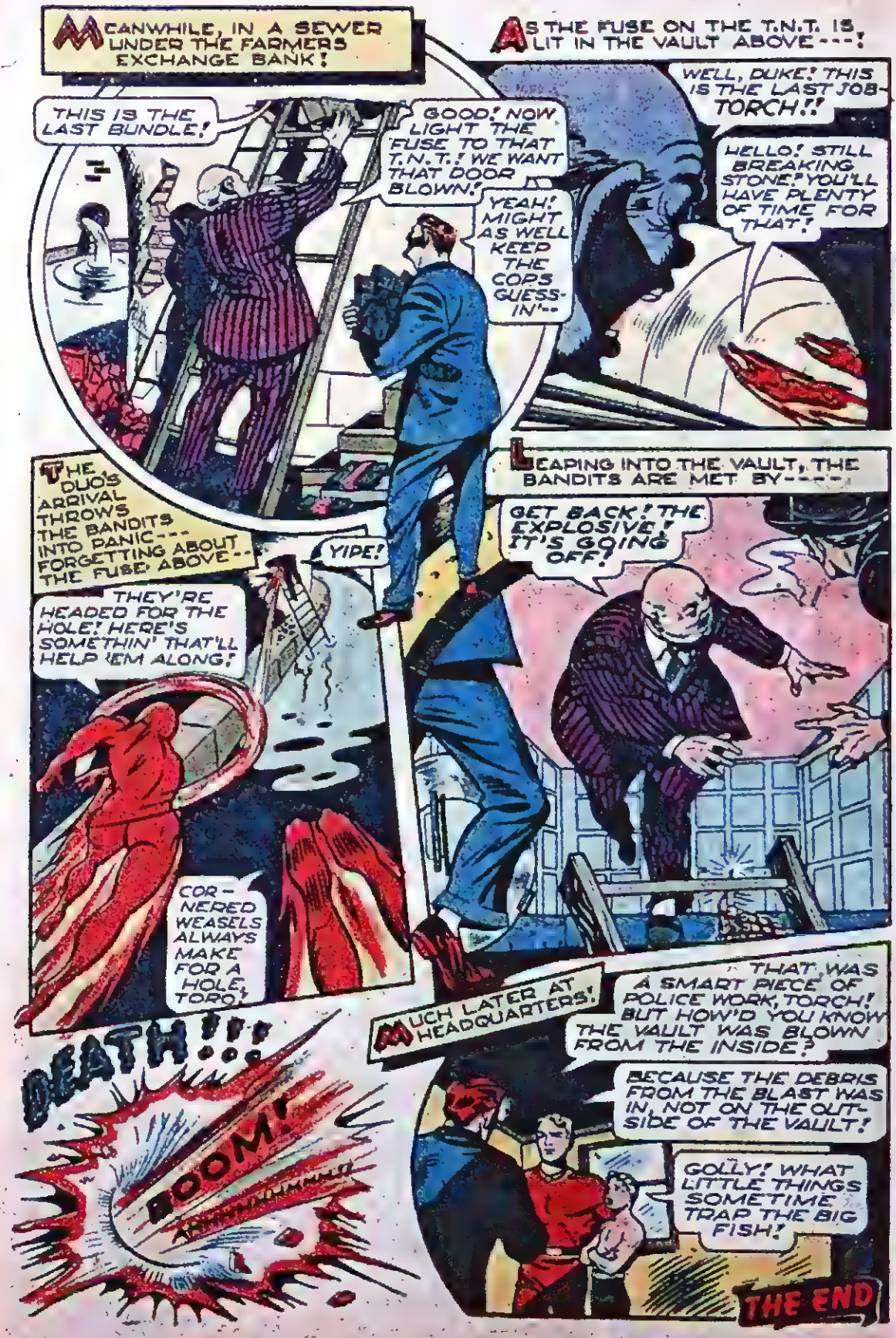
OUR STORY OPENS IN A BANDIT HIDEOUT!
YOU UNDERSTAND THE SET UP? WE'LL TAKE THEM IN SERIES OF THREE!
THAT'LL HAVE THE COPS RUNNIN' RAGGED!
AND HOW! WITH THIS SYSTEM, WE CAN'T LOSE!
EXACTLY, BOYS! W'LL START A WAVE OF CRIME LIKE THIS COUNTRY HAS NEVER SEEN!
IT'S A SURE THING!
YOU GOT BRAINS, BOSS!
LATER, THAT SAME NIGHT---!
WHAT'S THAT? SOUNDS LIKE AN EXPLOSION COMING FROM THE BANK!
IT AIN'T SOMEONE DROPPING HIS WATCH! STEP ON IT!
BOOM!
RACING TO THE FRONT DOOR OF THE BANK, THEY'RE MET BY---!
HEY, YOU MUGS INSIDE! PUT YOUR HANDS UP OR---AHHHHHHH--
AGGGH!
WHILE ABOVE, TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES HEARING THE BLASTING ROAR OF THE EXPLOSION ----
THERE WERE SHOTS AFTER THE EXPLOSION, TORCH!
THEY CAME FROM THE BANK! WE'RE GOING DOWN!
AND SECONDS LATER----
TORCH---! THIS IS A COP KILLIN'!
WITH ROBBERY THROWN IN! LET'S GO INSIDE!
2.


FLAMING THRU THE SHATTERED GLASS DOOR----
IT'S ROBBERY ALLRIGHT! LOOK AT THAT VAULT!
NEVER MIND. THAT. LOOK FOR THE KILLERS
THAT'S STRANGE! THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY WINDOW OR DOOR BEING FORCED! I DON'T GET IT!
GONE! BUT THE FUNNY PART IS HOW DID THEY GET IN OR OUT?
HURRY--! WE'LL CALL HEADQUARTERS TO PICK UP THE BODIES OF THE TWO POLICEMEN, THEN---
THEY'VE CLEANED OUT EVERY NICKEL! NOW WHAT!
BUT NO TRACE OF THE BANDITS IS FOUND!
LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
YOUR INFORMATION CHECKS WITH MINE, TORCH! THE BANDITS LEFT NO CLUE AS TO HOW THEY GAINED ENTRANCE!
MAYBE THEY HAD KEYS!
THOSE DOORS DON'T USE 'EM, KID! THEY HAVE TIME LOCKS!
MEANWHILE, AT THE KILLER'S HIDEOUT!
WHAT A HAUL! LET'S COUNT IT AND--? HUH?
KEEP YOUR CLAWS OFF IT! WE'VE GOT TWO MORE CALLS TO MAKE TONIGHT!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! WE'D BETTER HURRY!
TELEPHONE! EXCUSE ME, BOYS! HELLO-- CHIEF RYAN SPEAKING! WHAT!?
3.


WHAT'S UP, CHIEF?
PLENTY! THERE'VE JUST BEEN TWO BANK ROBBERIES WITHIN THE LAST TWENTY MINUTES!
WERE THEY ROBBED THE SAME WAY?
YES! VAULT BLASTED AND CLEANED! BUT NO SIGN AS TO HOW THE CROOKS GOT IN OR OUT!
WAIT A BIT! WE MAY BE GOING ABOUT THIS THE WRONG WAY!
IT'S GOT ME!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WE'RE SUPPOSIN' THEY GAIN ENTRANCE FROM THE OUTSIDE AND THEN BLOW THE VAULT! BUT SUPPOSE--! I'VE GOT IT! FLAME ON, TORO! SEE YOU LATER, CHIEF!
THE FIERY DUO FLAME FROM HEADQUARTERS OVER THE DARKENED CITY--!
WHERE ARE WE HEADED, TORCH?
THE BANK, TORO! I WANT A LOOK AT THAT VAULT! I'VE A HUNCH IT WAS BLOWN FROM THE INSIDE!
AND A FEW MINUTES LATER-
WHAT D'WE DO NOW?
LOOK FOR A--? AH! HERE IT IS! D'YOU SEE THIS CIRCLE CUT IN THE FLOOR? WATCH--!
KNEELING, TORCH SLIPS HIS FINGERS IN THE CUT AND---
THEN THEY DID GET IN THIS WAY! BUT WHY BLOW THE VAULT DOOR?
TO FOOL THE COPS, KID! C'MON! LET'S SEE WHERE THIS LEADS US!
4


DROPPING THROUGH THE HOLE, THE DUO FIND THEMSELVES --!
I'LL BE! A SEWER -- LET'S FOLLOW IT UP!
WE'RE GOING TO! WE MAY FIND SOME TRACE OF THE BANDIT HIDE-OUT!
WHILE WATCHING THEM FROM A DISTANCE --!
THE TORCH! HE'S ON TO US!
OOOO
TRAP HIM! I'VE PREPARED FOR HIM! NOW LISTEN CLOSELY AND DO EXACTLY WHAT I SAY!
AND --!
THE TORCH! HE'S WISE TO US! WHAT'LL WE DO?
WHILE IN THE SEWER JUST BELOW ---!
WELL, WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE, TORCH! SO FAR --! WHAT'S UP?
VOICES, TORO! FROM ABOVE! LISTEN --!
IT'S TIME TO CARRY OUT THE SECOND PART OF OUR PLAN! TONIGHT, WE STRIKE AGAIN!
THE WHITE-HOT PAIR FLAME THRU THE MANHOLE, ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES ---!
MAKE IT HOT, TORO!
WITH PLEASURE, TORCH!
THE BANDITS! THEY'RE ABOVE US!
THE COPS ARE STYMIED! AND NOT EVEN TORCH KNOWS HOW THE JOBS WERE DONE!
THAT'S WHAT THEY THINK! C'MON, KID! WE'LL SHOW THEM!
WHAT THE --? HEY --! I'M STUCK!
TRAPPED!
IT'S AN ASBESTOS GUM! TRY TO FLAME THRU THAT! HO! HO!
IT'S HIS ROUND, TORO! WE FELL INTO A VERY NEAT LITTLE TRAP!
5.

TURN ON THE SWITCH! I WANT THESE HOT SHOTS COOLED BEFORE WE LEAVE! THE ASBESTOS WILL CONTRACT AS IT HARDENS AND CRUSH THEM LIKE EGGS!
TCH! TCH! WHAT A PLEASANT PROSPECT!
AND WHAT'LL YOU BE DOING MEANWHILE!
ROBBING THE FARMERS EXCHANGE BANK, ADDED TO WHAT WE'VE GOT, WE'LL BE SET FOR LIFE!
C'MON, BOYS! SO LONG SUCKERS!
SO-LONG! WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE FARMERS EXCHANGE!
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OPTIMISTIC, TORCH!
AS THE BANDITS LEAVE...
NO! THEY FORGOT ONE THING! THIS COOLING PROCESS CAN BE USED IN REVERSE, AS THE ASBESTOS HARDENS, SO DOES THE GLASS COOL! AND IF WE CAN APPLY HEAT TO IT---!
FLAMING ON, TORCH BLOWS A HEATED STREAM OF AIR AGAINST THE COLD GLASS!
LOOK! IT'S WORKING!
THE ASBESTOS IS FLOWING, TORCH!
TRY TO FREE YOURSELF, TORCH! WE'VE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!
6

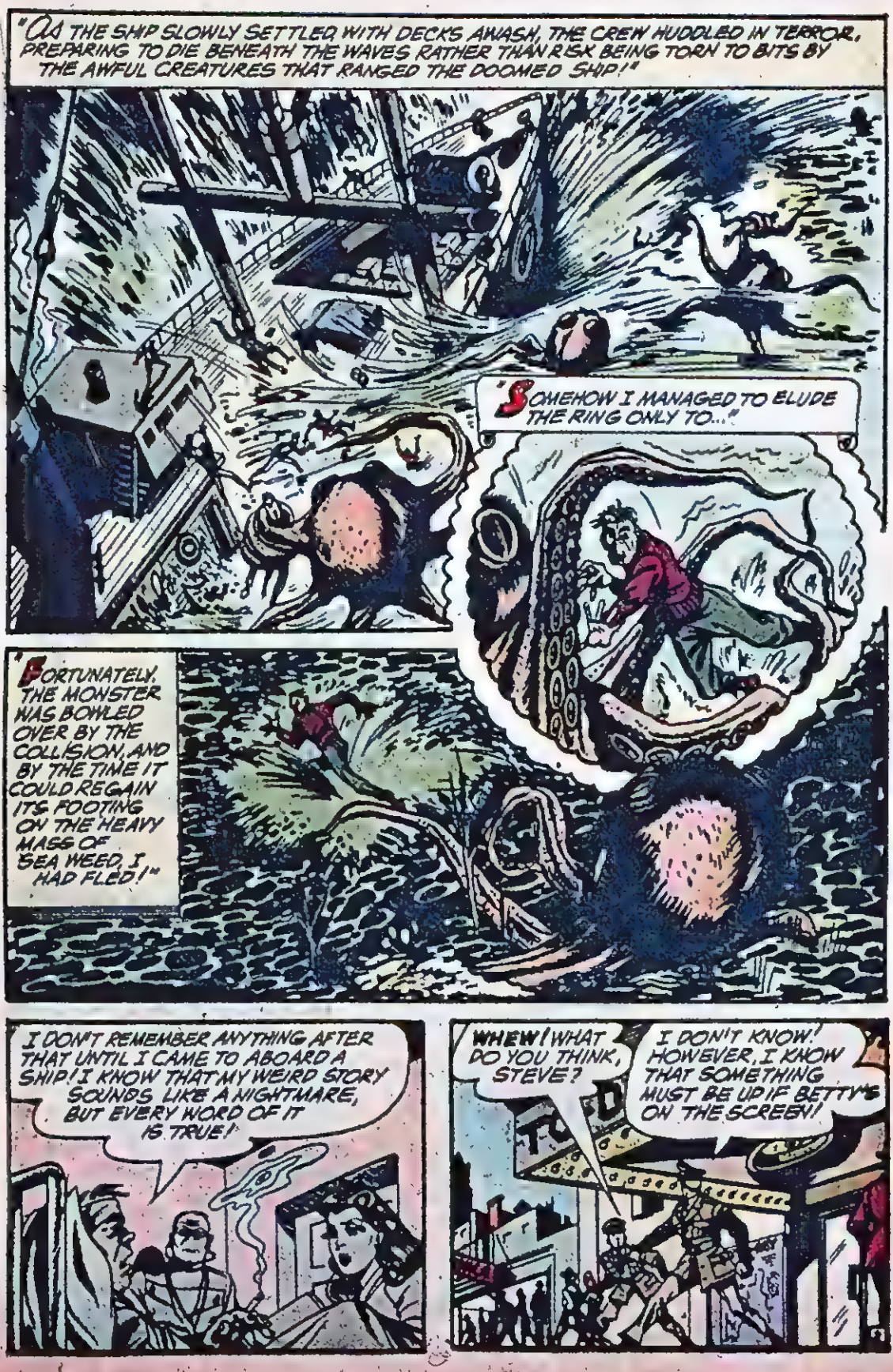

MEANWHILE, IN A SEWER UNDER THE FARMERS EXCHANGE BANK!
THIS IS THE LAST BUNDLE!
GOOD! NOW LIGHT THE FUSE TO THAT T.N.T.! WE WANT THAT DOOR BLOWN!
YEAH! MIGHT AS WELL KEEP THE COPS GUESSIN'--
AS THE FUSE ON THE T.N.T. IS LIT IN THE VAULT ABOVE---!
WELL, DUKE! THIS IS THE LAST JOB-TORCH!!
HELLO! STILL BREAKING STONE? YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT!
THE DUO'S ARRIVAL THROWS THE BANDITS INTO PANIC--- FORGETTING ABOUT THE FUSE ABOVE--
YIPE!
LEAPING INTO THE VAULT, THE BANDITS ARE MET BY----
GET BACK! THE EXPLOSIVE! IT'S GOING OFF!
THEY'RE HEADED FOR THE HOLE! HERE'S SOMETHIN' THAT'LL HELP 'EM ALONG!
COR-NERED WEASELS ALWAYS MAKE FOR A HOLE, TORO!
DEATH!!!
BOOM!
MUCH LATER AT HEADQUARTERS!
THAT WAS A SMART PIECE OF POLICE WORK, TORCH! BUT HOW'D YOU KNOW THE VAULT WAS BLOWN FROM THE INSIDE?
BECAUSE THE DEBRIS FROM THE BLAST WAS IN, NOT ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE VAULT!
GOLLY! WHAT LITTLE THINGS SOMETIME TRAP THE BIG FISH!
THE END

CAPTAIN AMERICA

A FRANTIC S.O.S. SPLITS THE ETHER.... AS GREAT CARGO SHIPS PLOW THE STORM TOSSED NORTH ATLANTIC... AND THE SILENCE!..... AND CAPTAIN AMERICA GOES TO DO BATTLE WITH THE EVIL GENIUS WHO RULES THIS MYSTERIOUS DOMAIN WHERE TERROR AND MURDER ARE RAMPANT.....

"THE GRAVEYARD OF SHIPS"

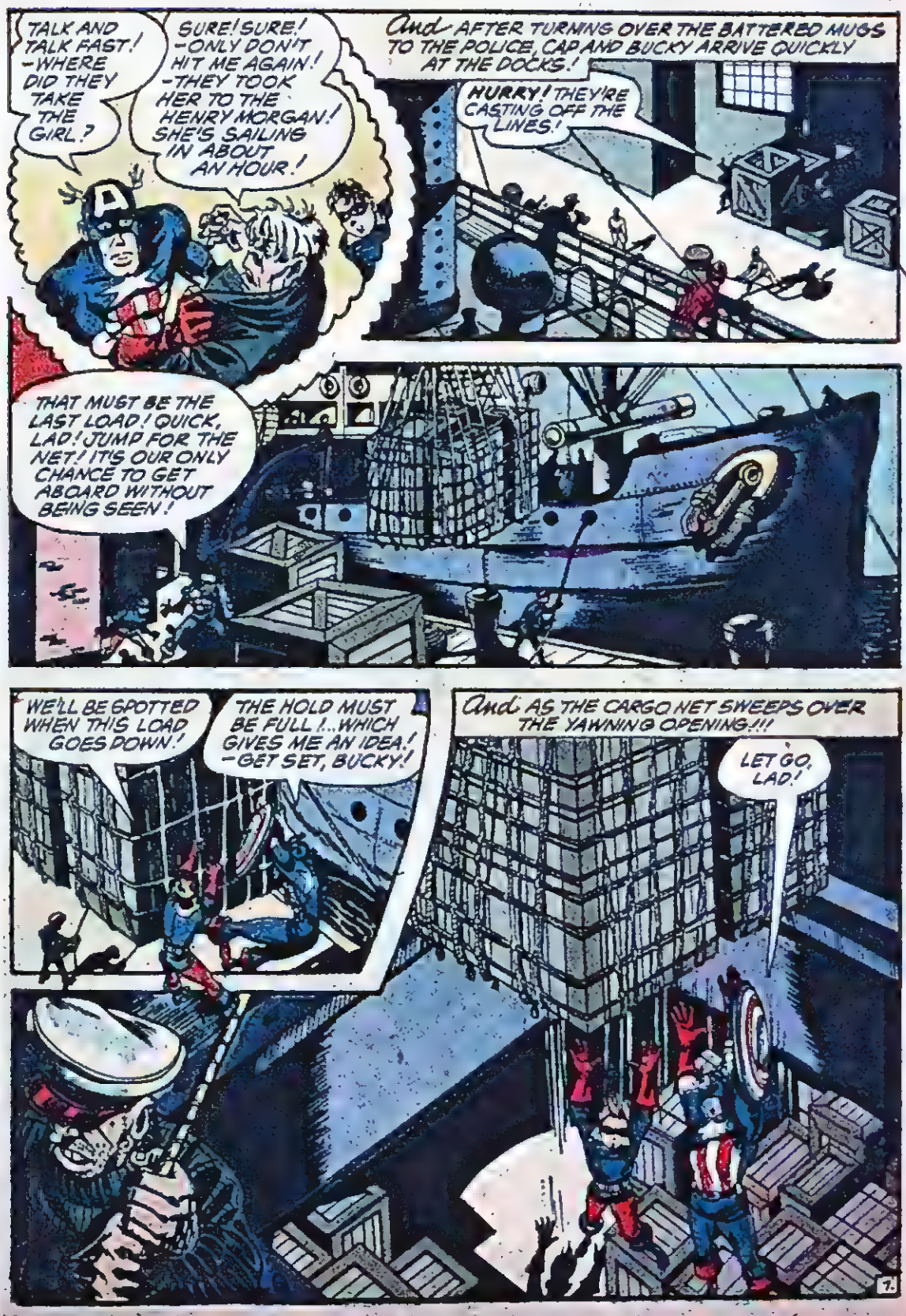
HEY STEVE! BETCHA HE MUST BE FROM ONE OF THOSE THREE SHIPS THAT DISAPPEARED SO MYSTERIOUSLY!
GUESS SO! -COME ON!
SOLE SURVIVOR OF MARINE DISASTER TELLS HARROWING TALE
TONIGHT 8:30
STEVE, LOOK! ISN'T THAT BETTY ROSS UP THERE ON THE SCREEN?
YEAH! SHE'S TAKING NOTES WHILE THE LONE SURVIVOR TELLS HIS STORY!
..INSIDE THE THEATER
SUDDENLY THE SHIP SHUDDERED FROM STEM TO STERN AND CAME TO A GRINDING STOP! WE ALL PILED ON DECK AND WERE AMAZED TO FIND THAT WE WERE CAUGHT IN A MASS OF FLOATING SEAWEED THAT STRETCHED FOR MILES AROUND US!
"THE CREW LINING THE RAIL EXCITEDLY WATCHED AS WEIRD FIGURES RAGED OVER THE THICK MASS OF SEAWEED TOWARD THE STRICKEN SHIP WHICH WAS RAPIDLY SINKING BY NOW!"
"SO HORRIBLE WERE THE CREATURES THAT SWARMED OVER THE SIDE THAT WE SAILORS WERE ROOTED TO THE SPOT!"
2

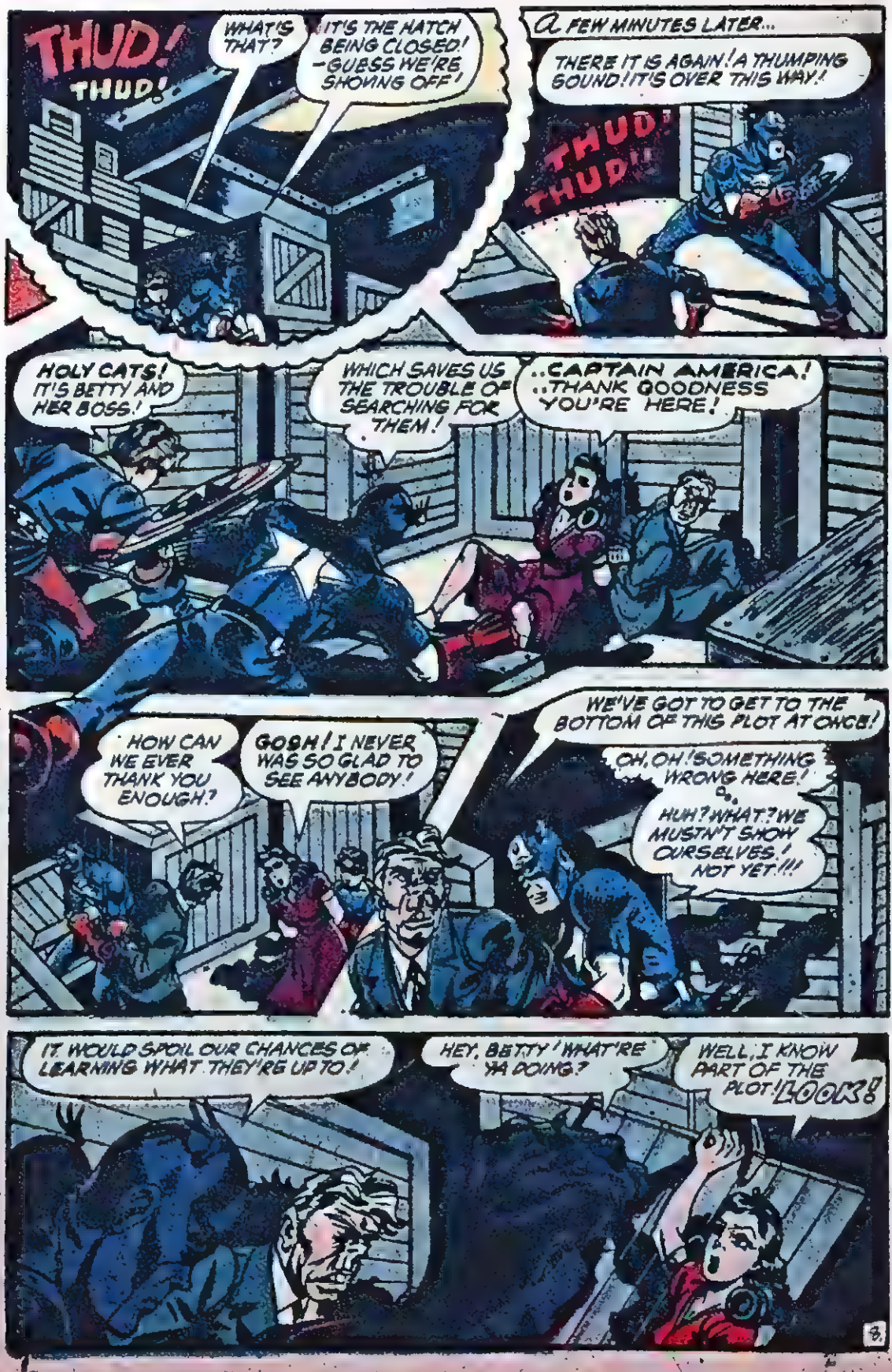

"AS THE SHIP SLOWLY SETTLED WITH DECKS AWASH, THE CREW HUDDLED IN TERROR, PREPARING TO DIE BENEATH THE WAVES RATHER THAN RISK BEING TORN TO BITS BY THE AWFUL CREATURES THAT RANGED THE DOOMED SHIP!"
SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO ELUDE THE RING ONLY TO..."
FORTUNATELY, THE MONSTER WAS BOWLED OVER BY THE COLLISION, AND BY THE TIME IT COULD REGAIN ITS FOOTING ON THE HEAVY MASS OF SEA WEED, I HAD FLED!"
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AFTER THAT UNTIL I CAME TO ABOARD A SHIP! I KNOW THAT MY WEIRD STORY SOUNDS LIKE A NIGHTMARE, BUT EVERY WORD OF IT IS TRUE!
WHEW! WHAT DO YOU THINK, STEVE?
I DON'T KNOW! HOWEVER, I KNOW THAT SOMETHING MUST BE UP IF BETTY'S ON THE SCREEN!

20 MINUTES LATER, TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES APPROACH A BUILDING NEAR THE WATERFRONT!
HOW'RE WE GONNA FIND BETTY?
SIMPLE! THE SURVIVOR'S SHIP BELONGED TO THE EAST COMPANY... HE MENTIONED THAT IN HIS STORY!
HERE IT IS!... AND I'VE A HUNCH I'LL FIND BETTY INSIDE!
EAST SHIPPING COMPANY, INC.
MAY WE COME IN?
OH! CAPTAIN AMER...
HELLO, BETTY!
BUT EVEN AS THE SECRETARY INSISTS THEY LEAVE, HER BUSY FINGERS TYPE A MEANINGFUL MESSAGE...
Meet you at six tonight at tenth and water streets...
WHAT'S THE GAG! WHADDYA MEAN, YOU'RE NOT BETTY ROSS!
EXACTLY WHAT I SAID! -NOW PLEASE LEAVE!
And CAP'S HAND CLOSES OVER THE MESSAGE AS HE HUSTLES BUCKY TOWARD THE DOOR!
I STILL DON'T GET IT!
THE LADY SAYS WE MADE A MISTAKE SO LET'S GO!
4

BUT AS CAP EXPLAINS TO THE PUZZLED BUCKY...
HELP! CAP! HELP!!!
BETTY!
LET'S GO!
SO YOU'RE A FRIEND OF CAPTAIN AMERICA!
LET ME GO!
COMING, BETTY! OUT OF THE WAY, RATS!
WAHOO!
OUCH!
GET THE GIRL, DOPES!
OH! THEY GOT THE BOSS!
LOOK OUT, CAP!
I SEE HIM, KID!
HEY! PUT ME DOWN!
CUT IT OUT, YOU WILD CAT, OR I'LL...
5

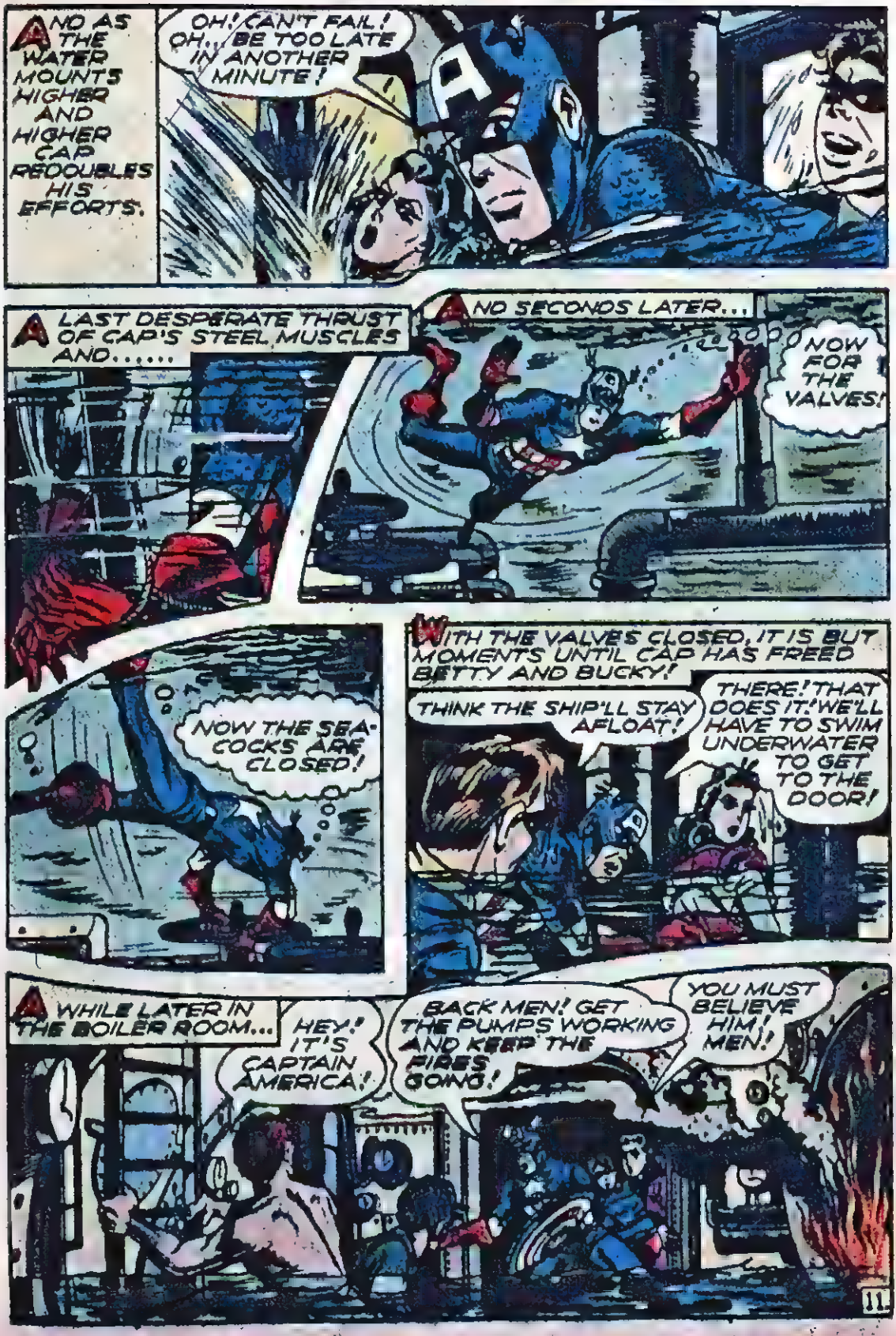
BUT!
NOT SO FAST, MUGG!!
DOWN YOU GO!!!
BUT CAP AND BUCKY ARE UNABLE TO PREVENT THE CAPTURE OF BETTY AND HER BOSS!
TAKE THAT YOU SHE DEVIL! I'LL TEACH YOU TO KICK AND BITE!
OH!!!
WE DID A GOOD JOB THIS TIME, EH, CAP?
YEAH!
After putting out of combat the last mug Cap and Bucky come back to the rescue only to find...
WHAT THE... BETTY'S GONE!
EAST SHIPPING COMPANY INC.
YES... AND SO IS THE BOSS!!!
6.

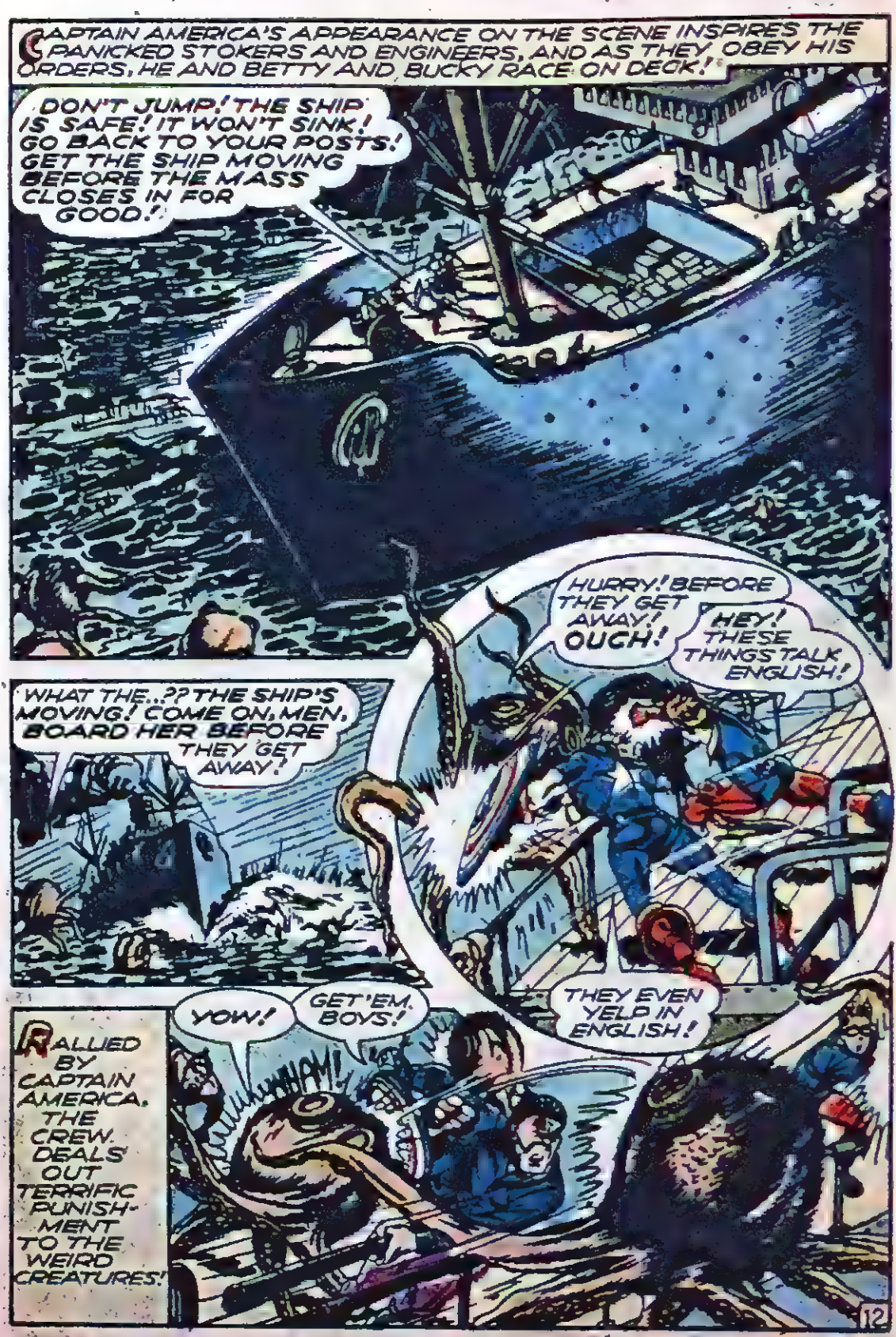

TALK AND TALK FAST! -WHERE DID THEY TAKE THE GIRL?
SURE! SURE! -ONLY DON'T HIT ME AGAIN! -THEY TOOK HER TO THE HENRY MORGAN! SHE'S SAILING IN ABOUT AN HOUR!
And AFTER TURNING OVER THE BATTERED MUGS TO THE POLICE, CAP AND BUCKY ARRIVE QUICKLY AT THE DOCKS!
HURRY! THEY'RE CASTING OFF THE LINES!
THAT MUST BE THE LAST LOAD! QUICK, LAD! JUMP FOR THE NET! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET ABOARD WITHOUT BEING SEEN!
WE'LL BE SPOTTED WHEN THIS LOAD GOES DOWN!
THE HOLD MUST BE FULL!..WHICH GIVES ME AN IDEA! -GET SET, BUCKY!
And AS THE CARGO NET SWEEPS OVER THE YAWNING OPENING!!!
LET GO, LAD!
7


THUD!
THUD!
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S THE HATCH BEING CLOSED! —GUESS WE'RE SHOVING OFF!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
THERE IT IS AGAIN! A THUMPING SOUND! IT'S OVER THIS WAY!
THUD! THUD!!
HOLY CATS! IT'S BETTY AND HER BOSS!
WHICH SAVES US THE TROUBLE OF SEARCHING FOR THEM!
..CAPTAIN AMERICA! ..THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE!
HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU ENOUGH?
GOSH! I NEVER WAS SO GLAD TO SEE ANYBODY!
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS PLOT AT ONCE!
OH, OH! SOMETHING WRONG HERE!
HUH? WHAT? WE MUSTN'T SHOW OURSELVES! NOT YET!!!
IT WOULD SPOIL OUR CHANCES OF LEARNING WHAT THEY'RE UP TO!
HEY, BETTY! WHAT'RE YA DOING?
WELL, I KNOW PART OF THE PLOT! LOOK!

WELL, I'LL BE... BRICKS!
YEP! A PHONY CARGO! -THE SHIP SINKS AND THE OWNERS COLLECT A HEAVY INSURANCE FOR THE REAL CARGO THAT'S SAFE IN SOME WAREHOUSE!
OOSH! HOW DID YUH KNOW? UH??
I'M WORKING FOR THE INSURANCE COMPANY! -THEY SUSPECTED SOMETHING AND ASSIGNED ME! -WHAT THE...??
PUT THEM UP!
BACK! OR SHE DIES!
(GROAN) I COULD KICK MYSELF FOR NOT WATCHING HIM AFTER NOTICING THAT HIS ROPES WERE SO LOOSE!
UGGR-R-R!
I THOUGHT IT'D BE EASIER TO LET HER DIE AT SEA WITH THE CREW WHEN THE SHIP GOES DOWN, THAN HAVING TO BOTHER WITH DISPOSING OF HER BODY ON SHORE!
IF EITHER OF YOU TWO MAKE A MOVE, I WARN YOU, SHE DIES! NOW THAT THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG, I'M SORRY I WENT THROUGH ALL THIS DISCOMFORT! I SHOULD'VE KILLED HER ON SHORE WHEN I FOUND OUT WHAT SHE WAS UP TO!
AND POSED AS A CAPTIVE JUST IN CASE WE WERE DISCOVERED! CLEVER, EH? -AND NOW, START WALKING! REMEMBER... ONE FALSE MOVE AND SHE DIES!
AND SINCE THE CREW MUSTN'T KNOW THAT YOU'RE ABOARD, YOU FIGURED YOU'D HIDE WITH YOUR PRISONER?
CORRECT, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

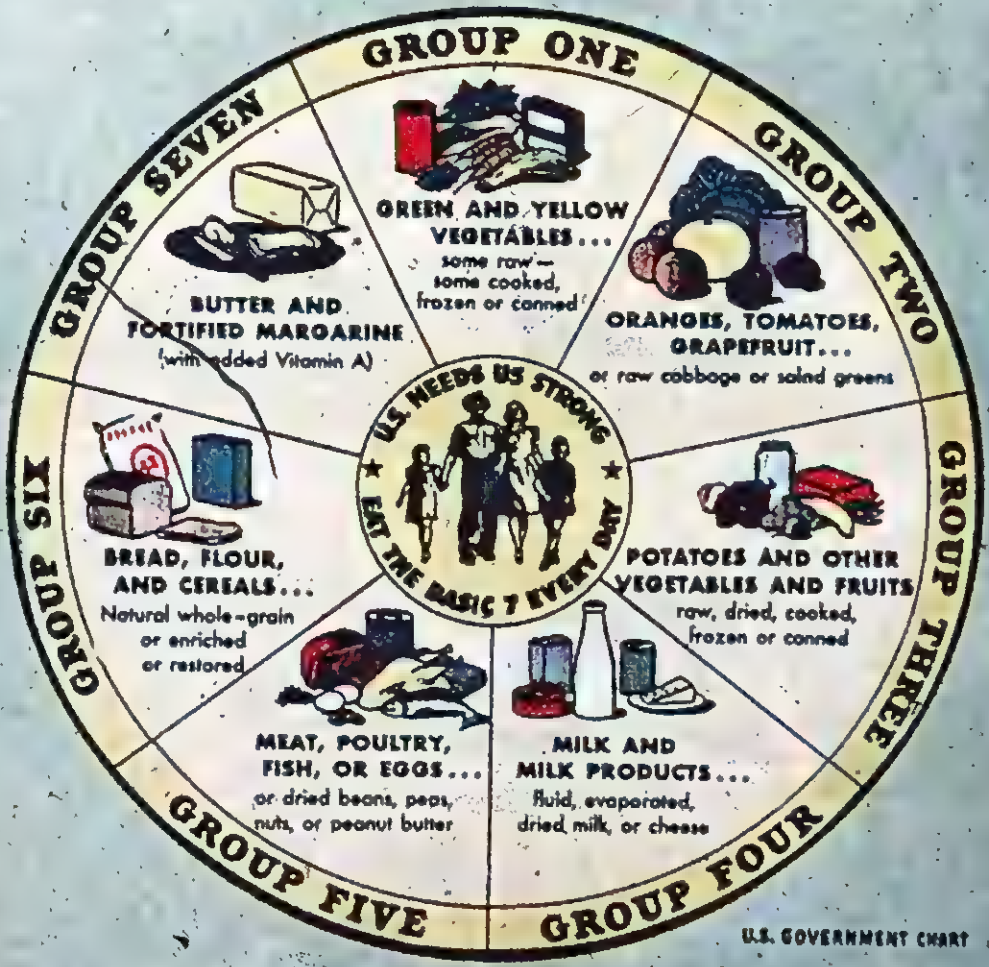
UNDER THE THREAT OF BETTY'S DEATH, CAP AND BUCKY, ARE MADE PRISONERS!
WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, WE'LL REACH THE FLOATING MASS, AND THEN MY MAN OPENS THE SEA-COCKS, AND DOWN YOU GO WITH THE SHIP! OF COURSE, AFTER, I'VE ESCAPED SAFELY!
THEN THE STORY THE SURVIVORS' TOLD WAS TRUE!
HA! HA! EVERY WORD OF IT, AS YOU WILL LEARN! THIS SEA OF WEEDS APPARENTLY TORE LOOSE FROM THE GREAT MASS THAT FORMS THE SARGOSSA SEA, KNOWN AS THE GRAVEYARD OF SHIPS.
...AND ONE OF MY CAPTAINS REPORTED IT TO ME! THE POOR FELLOW'S DEAD NOW! WELL, AU REVOIR... -I'M HEADING FOR MORE COMFORTABLE QUARTERS...
TWENTY FOUR HOURS LATER...
CAP! BUCKY! HE OPENED THE SEA-COCKS!
And SUDDENLY THE SHIP LURCHES AND STAGGERS!
WHAT THE!!
OOPS! THERE SHE GOES! HER ENGINE'S MUST BE IN THE WEED MASS!
PAFF! PAFF!
10


AND AS THE WATER MOUNTS HIGHER AND HIGHER CAP REDOUBLES HIS EFFORTS.
OH! CAN'T FAIL! OH... BE TOO LATE IN ANOTHER MINUTE!
A LAST DESPERATE THRUST OF CAP'S STEEL MUSCLES AND.....
NO SECONDS LATER...
NOW FOR THE VALVES!
NOW THE SEA-COCKS ARE CLOSED!
WITH THE VALVES CLOSED, IT IS BUT MOMENTS UNTIL CAP HAS FREED BETTY AND BUCKY!
THINK THE SHIP'LL STAY AFLOAT!
THERE! THAT DOES IT! WE'LL HAVE TO SWIM UNDERWATER TO GET TO THE DOOR!
WHILE LATER IN THE BOILER ROOM...
HEY! IT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA!
BACK MEN! GET THE PUMPS WORKING AND KEEP THE FIRES GOING!
YOU MUST BELIEVE HIM, MEN!


CAPTAIN AMERICA'S APPEARANCE ON THE SCENE INSPIRES THE PANICKED STOKERS AND ENGINEERS, AND AS THEY OBEY HIS ORDERS, HE AND BETTY AND BUCKY RACE ON DECK!
DON'T JUMP! THE SHIP IS SAFE! IT WON'T SINK! GO BACK TO YOUR POSTS! GET THE SHIP MOVING BEFORE THE MASS CLOSES IN FOR GOOD!
HURRY! BEFORE THEY GET AWAY! OUCH!
HEY! THESE THINGS TALK ENGLISH!
WHAT THE...?? THE SHIP'S MOVING! COME ON, MEN, BOARD HER BEFORE THEY GET AWAY!
THEY EVEN YELP IN ENGLISH!
YOW!
GET 'EM, BOYS!
WHAM!
RALLIED BY CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE CREW DEALS OUT TERRIFIC PUNISHMENT TO THE WEIRD CREATURES!

IT'S ALL HER FAULT... WOOF!
POW!
THAT VOICE SOUNDS FAMILIAR!
LET'S SEE WHO YOU REALLY ARE!
UGG!
THE REST OF THEM SURRENDERED, CAP! HOW ARE YOU DOING!
PRETTY-GOOD LOOK!
IT'S THE BOSS!
YEAH! AND WEARING THE SAME FRIGHTENING COSTUME THAT GAVE HIS KILLERS THE APPEARANCE OF AN OCTOPUS!
GET OVER WITH THE REST OF THOSE HOT SEAT CANDIDATES, YOU MURDER!
YOU WIN... YOU WIN...
THE ONE THING I DON'T GET IS HOW YOUR HENCHMEN GOT HERE?
IN BOATS! FROM A BARREN ISLAND NOT FAR FROM HERE WHICH WE USED AS MY HEADQUARTERS! THE FLOATING MASS OF WEEDS IS THICK ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE WEIGHT OF A MAN!
AND WHY THE PHONEY GET-UP OF THE OCTOPUSS?
PSYCHOLOGY OF TERROR. IF THERE WAS A SURVIVOR, WE TRIED TO MAKE HIS STORY TOO FANTASTIC TO BE BELIEVED!
YOUR KIND ALWAYS DO A LOT OF FIGURING... BUT IT SOME HOW NEVER SEEMS TO BE QUIET ENOUGH, DOES IT?
THE END.

For Health...eat some food from each group...every day!


GROUP ONE
GROUP TWO
GROUP THREE
GROUP FOUR
GROUP FIVE
GROUP SIX
GROUP SEVEN
GREEN AND YELLOW VEGETABLES... some raw—some cooked, frozen or canned
ORANGES, TOMATOES, GRAPEFRUIT... or raw cabbage or salad greens
POTATOES AND OTHER VEGETABLES AND FRUITS raw, dried, cooked, frozen or canned
MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS... fluid, evaporated, dried milk, or cheese
MEAT, POULTRY, FISH, OR EGGS... or dried beans, peas, nuts, or peanut butter
BREAD, FLOUR, AND CEREALS... Natural whole-grain or enriched or restored
BUTTER AND FORTIFIED MARGARINE (with added Vitamin A)
U.S. NEEDS US STRONG
EAT THE BASIC 7 EVERY DAY

U.S. GOVERNMENT CHART

IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC 7... EAT ANY OTHER FOODS YOU WANT

Two Dangerous Companions

"THIS is the life," grinned Charlie to himself. "Here I am 10,000 feet up in the pines of the Rocky Mountains. I've just laid my last bear trap and now I don't have a thing to worry about except getting back down the trail home."

He glanced at the dying campfire, then leaned back in his blankets and stared happily at the stars above him.

"I've got the stars for company and the pines to sing me to sleep. Boy, I'm going to enjoy myself in this peace and comfort. In a few months I'll be eighteen and then I'll get out in this world fight and won't have time for such luxury." He raised up on one elbow and reached for his saddle, on which hung a small portable radio. "Speaking of world fights, I guess I'll tune in and see how much we are licking the Japs and Germans today," he said.

He twirled the knobs and found a station.

". . . So try our soap, ladies and gentlemen," the announcer ended his commercial. "And now here is a flash announcement we just received. Two German internees escaped at 12:30 noon from the internment camp at Fort Rona. These men, when last seen, were headed for the Mescelero Indian Reservation, north of Fort Rona. They were dressed in denim trousers and brown leather jackets. Both wore German-made hats. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of these two men should report immediately to the state police and—"

Something cold and hard nudged Charlie's back. He turned quickly and stared into the menacing muzzle of a pistol.

"Keep still," came a thick command from the shadowy figure that held the gun so steadily.

The speaker moved around Charlie and another dark form appeared beside him out of the gloom of the pine trees. The latter went to the radio and snapped it off just as the announcer was saying, "There is a reward for the apprehension of Smidt and Frey—"

"Just what do you men want?" asked Charlie, trying to pretend that he hadn't noticed they wore denim trousers, brown leather jackets and tan hats.

"Food," was the guttural answer.

"Well, now," Charlie grinned, "there's plenty in my saddle bags. Here, I'll fix up a little chow for you—" He started to rise.

"Stay there," the tall man ordered in his foreign accent. "Smidt," he addressed his companion, "get the food and search for arms."

Smidt did as he was told and took Charlie's gun from its saddle holster. The man the radio announced had called Frey sat down and watched Charlie with a fixed eye. Charlie didn't appreciate this glaring vigilance.

"I wish you fellows would let me in on what's up," he said in a perplexed voice. "I'm not used to fellow travelers having to make their own chow. And I don't get the idea of the gun—"

"Shut up," Frey sneered. "We know you heard the radio announcer. You know who we are. And we know you are our prisoner. Do not make bad moves or I will shoot immediately."

Frey glanced at Charlie's gabardine trousers beside his bed-roll.

"Smidt," he said, "wear these," and he tossed the trousers to his friend.

He watched Charlie and the bacon as Smidt got into the trousers. They were a little large for him, but they could do.

"You wear mine," Smidt told Charlie. "My jacket too. I'll wear yours."

"I'll wear his other one," Frey said, pointing to the coat Charlie was using for a pillow.

* * * * *

"THIS is fine," Charlie thought. "I'll look like a German internee now. If the sheriff is combing these mountains, I'll probably get shot and investigated afterwards. On second thought, it's darn near certain that nobody is going to look for these guys in these pines. It'd be like a needle in a haystack. Good gosh! we three bosom-pals could live up here for years hidden away in these mountains without anyone ever coming in sight of us. Wow! Nobody ever comes up here in this part of the Indian reservation except when there is a forest fire—or to trap bears." His brow wrinkled. "It'd be just like these boys to decide I'm unfriendly enough to get rid of permanently. I've got some plotting to do—and fast."

Frey and Smidt finished eating and threw dirt on the fire to kill it. Then each took a blanket from Charlie.

"Guess I'll put on my disguise," Charlie said, and pulled on the blue denim pants, which barely fitted his long frame. "Hope I'm not frozen by breakfast time, boys," he said conversationally.

"Shut up," came Frey's usual reply.

Frey lay down and slept. Smidt kept watch

on the prisoner, who yawned casually and shivered.

Charlie kept pondering a get-away. He couldn't get near the guard. His slightest move brought those cold blue eyes on him and the gun pointed too directly to be comfortable.

By three o'clock he was so cold he was stiff. He sat up. Instantly Frey, who had turned guard, was on the alert.

"Mind if I get some water and put some wood on the fire?" Charlie asked.

"I will attend," Frey said.

"Must be cold and thirsty himself or he wouldn't," Charlie surmised.

* * * * *

FREY threw the wood on and then picked up the only water bottle. It was Charlie's. Frey took a long drink and handed it to Charlie. Charlie swallowed some. He started to screw the top on and lay it to one side. Then he had another thought. He left the lid barely on the bottle and placed it behind him in the shadow of the saddle. He settled down again and slept. Behind the saddle, a pool of water slowly formed.

Two German voices speaking their native tongue awoke him the next morning. He sat up, stiff and cold in the dawn air.

"Where is the water?" Smidt asked him, frowning.

"I don't have any except that in the water bottle," Charlie told him.

"There is none," Frey said in a hard voice. "Why did you not screw the lid on the bottle last night? The water leaked out. We must have coffee and you will find us water to make it."

Charlie raised his eyebrows in surprise.

"Why, that's funny—"

"What!"

"I mean funny—peculiar," explained Charlie. "I've never done such a thing before—"

Frey looked at him with unbelieving eyes.

"Get up, saddle your horse and we will look for water. There is none here. Smidt has looked for it."

"No, there isn't any for quite a few miles down the trail. This has been a very dry year," Charlie explained, "and all the mountain streams this high up are dry. The closest water is down that gully over there."

"How far?"

"A couple of miles. And there isn't anyone living within ten miles of us, if you're worried," Charlie said sarcastically.

"Leave the horse and things here," Frey said. "We will get the water and return here. You go first, boy."

Charlie led off down the rugged, rocky trail. He knew the Germans were at his mercy, because he knew the trails. Yet he was at their mercy because they had a gun. They could force him to take care of them forever. Frowning, he strode down through the pines.

Finally they arrived at the tiny little mountain stream. All three stood at the bank's edge and watched the gurgling water splash through the rocks, singing its merry, noisy song.

"It's easiest to fill the bottle from that big rock that overhangs the little pool there to one side of the stream," Charlie said. "If you just follow the path to the rock, you can reach it all right."

Frey took the bottle and stalked down the path as Charlie had instructed. Charlie leaned down to drink, resting his hand on a stone. Smidt stood over him with the ever-ready gun.

Suddenly a scream sounded down the path. Smidt turned and in that instant, Charlie lunged at him, the rock in his hand.

* * * * *

SMIDT fell, and Charlie grabbed his gun arm. With the rock in his other hand, he thrust a blow at Smidt's abdomen. With an "oomph" Smidt doubled up. Then the rock came down behind his ear and he relaxed and straightened out again.

Groans and calls for help were coming from down the trail, but Charlie paid no attention. He was busy tying Smidt's arms around a nearby tree with his belt.

This done, Charlie picked up the gun and hurried toward the groans. He found Frey as he had expected—in the bear trap that he had laid the morning before. Frey's leg was caught tight and bleeding profusely.

"Sorry I had to do this, Frey," Charlie apologized, as he tied Frey's hands behind him. Then he loosed the trap.

Herding Frey before his gun, he went back to Smidt, who was just coming to. He took off his own belt and tied the two prisoners' arms together.

"I hope our pants stay up," he worried. "At least these guys won't be running in opposite directions from me."

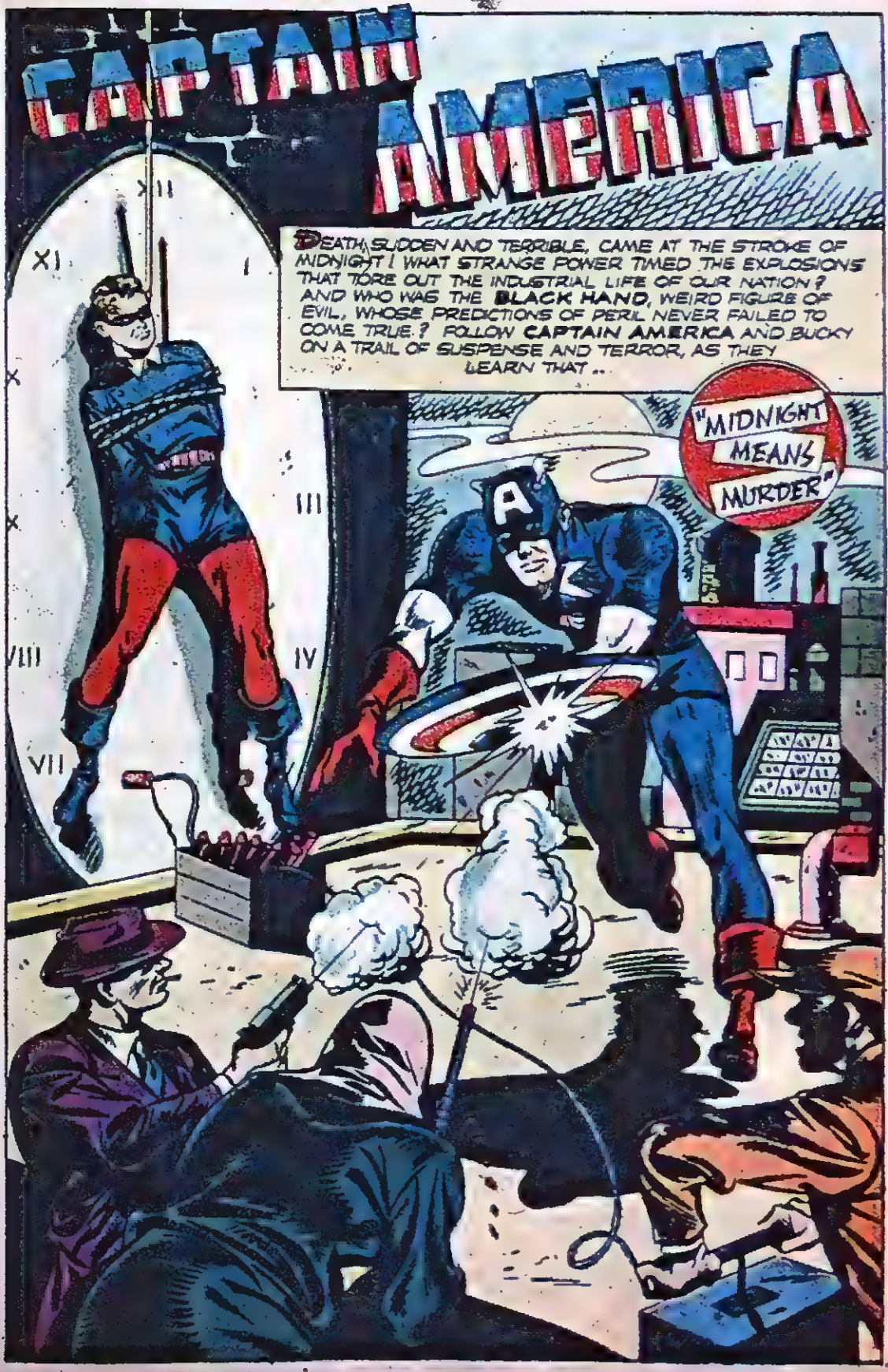
The procession started off up the path.

Late that afternoon found three very tired men at the door of the sheriff's office in the little town ten miles down the mountainside from a certain mountain stream.

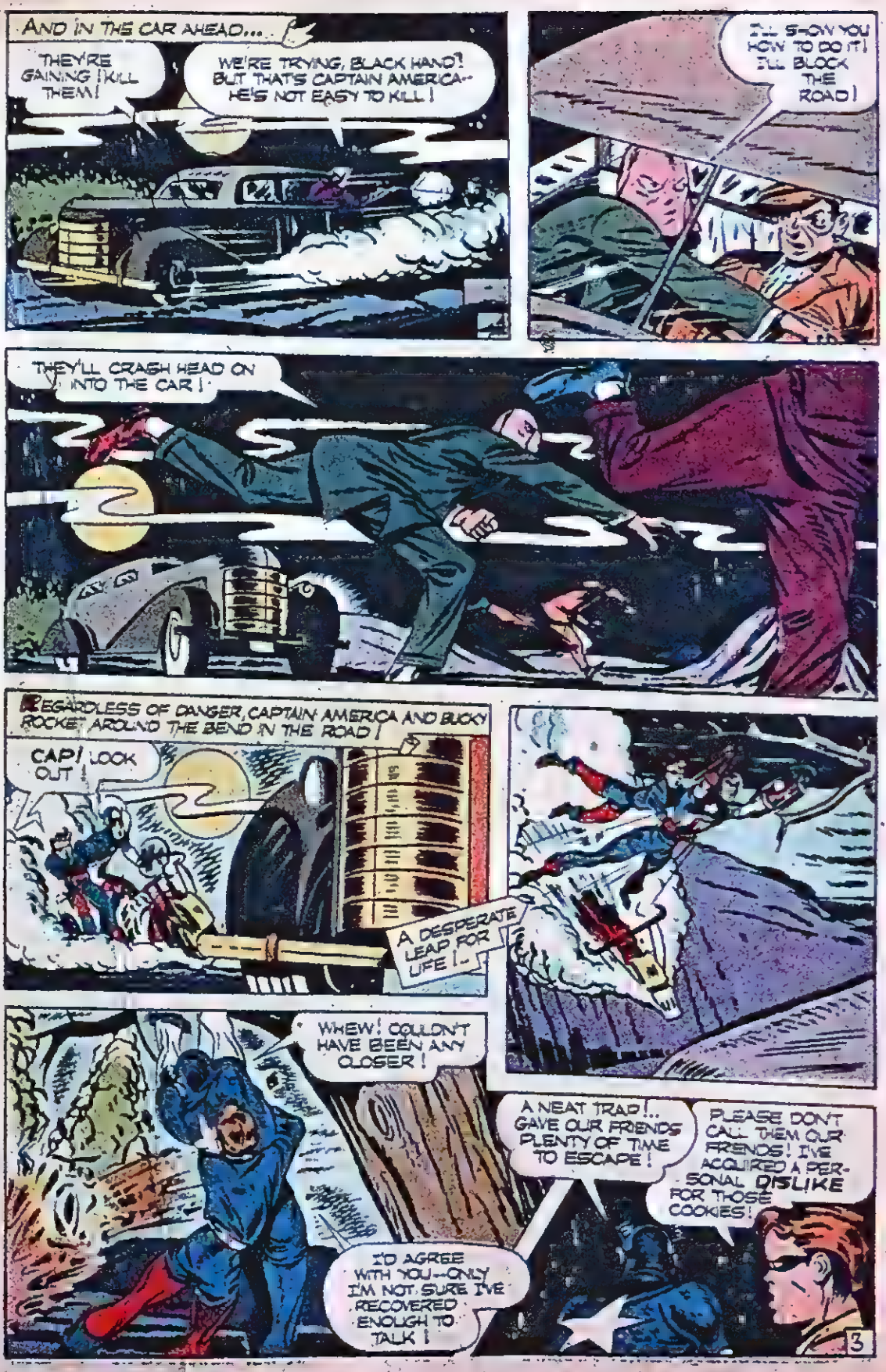
The sheriff arrived at the door with his mouth wide open in surprise.

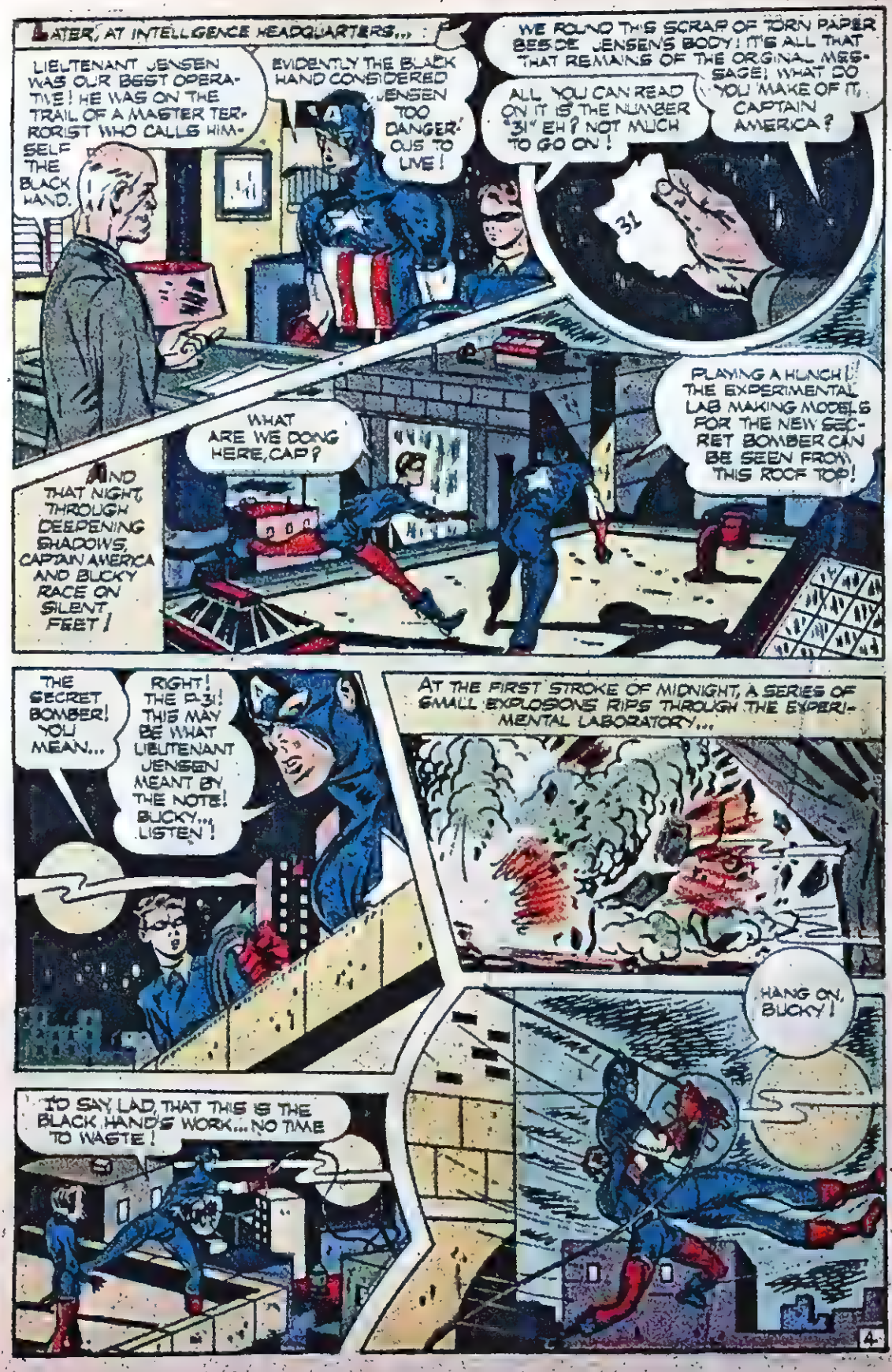
"'Tain't nothin', Sheriff," grinned Charlie. "Just a couple of snakes my bear trap caught up in the pines."

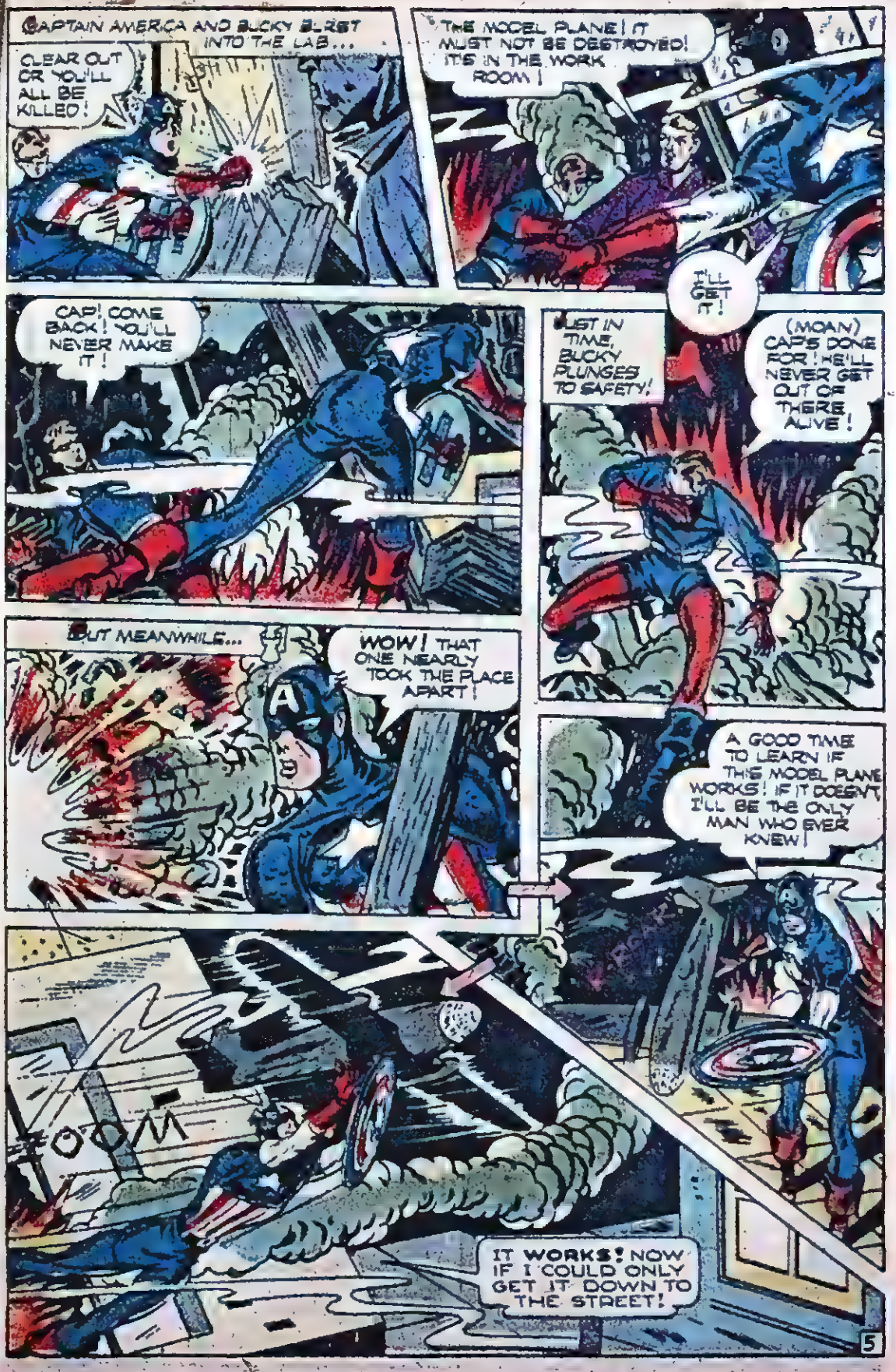
THE END

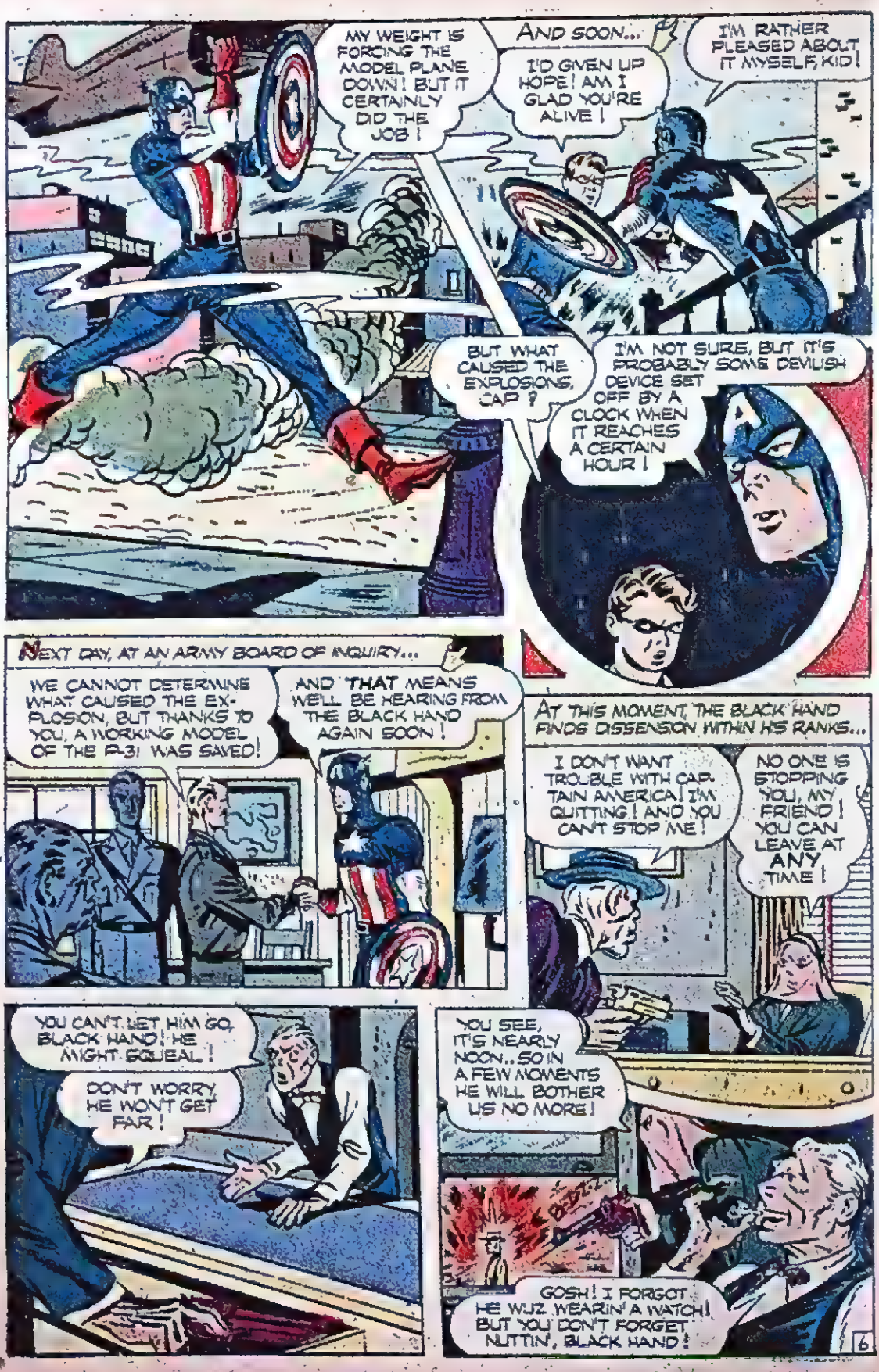

CAPTAIN AMERICA
DEATH, SUDDEN AND TERRIBLE, CAME AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT! WHAT STRANGE POWER TIMED THE EXPLOSIONS THAT TORE OUT THE INDUSTRIAL LIFE OF OUR NATION? AND WHO WAS THE BLACK HAND, WEIRD FIGURE OF EVIL, WHOSE PREDICTIONS OF PERIL NEVER FAILED TO COME TRUE? FOLLOW CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY ON A TRAIL OF SUSPENSE AND TERROR, AS THEY LEARN THAT...
"MIDNIGHT MEANS MURDER"

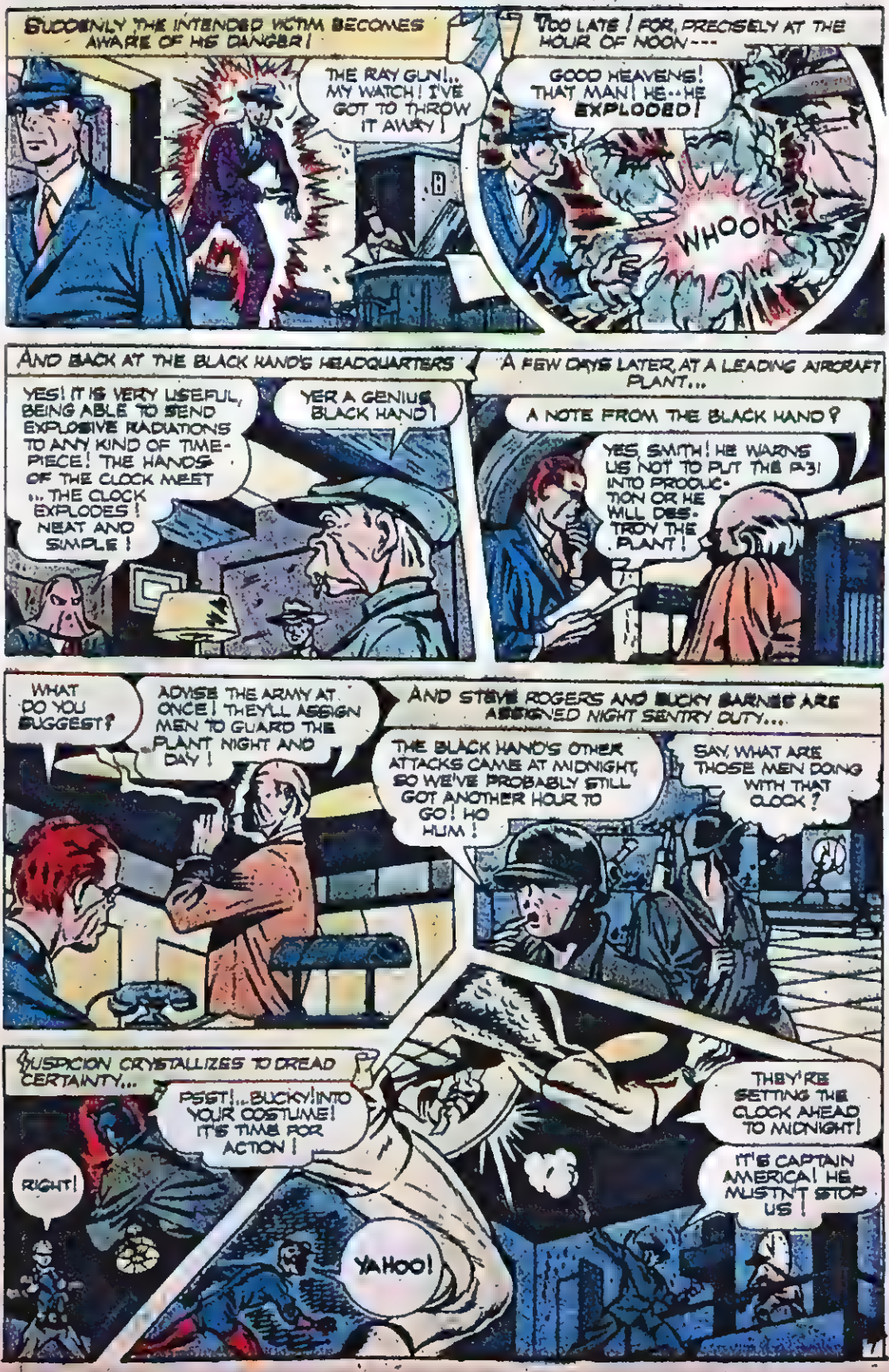
NIGHT; AND GAUNT-TWISTED TREES LOOK DOWN ON A MAN FLEEING FOR HIS LIFE...!
HE WON'T GET ME! WHEN I GET OVER THAT WALL AND GET TO THE ARMY CAMP, I'LL BE SAFE!
NEARBY...
STEVE! LOOK!
IT'S LIEUTENANT JENSEN! SOMETHING'S WRONG!
AND ATOP THE WALL...
NO! HAVE MERCY! DON'T...
JUMPIN' JEHOSEPHAT! HE EXPLODED!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THERE GOES A CAR! NOTHING ELSE IN SIGHT!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
DOWN, BUCKY!
THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US!
AND BRIEF SECONDS LATER, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY FLASH INTO ACTION!
LET'S GO, BUCKY!
2


AND IN THE CAR AHEAD....
THEY'RE GAINING! KILL THEM!
WE'RE TRYING, BLACK HAND! BUT THAT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA--HE'S NOT EASY TO KILL!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO DO IT! I'LL BLOCK THE ROAD!
THEY'LL CRASH HEAD ON INTO THE CAR!
REGARDLESS OF DANGER, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY ROCKET AROUND THE BEND IN THE ROAD!
CAP! LOOK OUT!
A DESPERATE LEAP FOR LIFE!..
WHEW! COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY CLOSER!
A NEAT TRAP!.. GAVE OUR FRIENDS PLENTY OF TIME TO ESCAPE!
PLEASE DON'T CALL THEM OUR FRIENDS! I'VE ACQUIRED A PERSONAL DISLIKE FOR THOSE COOKIES!
I'D AGREE WITH YOU--ONLY I'M NOT SURE I'VE RECOVERED ENOUGH TO TALK!
3

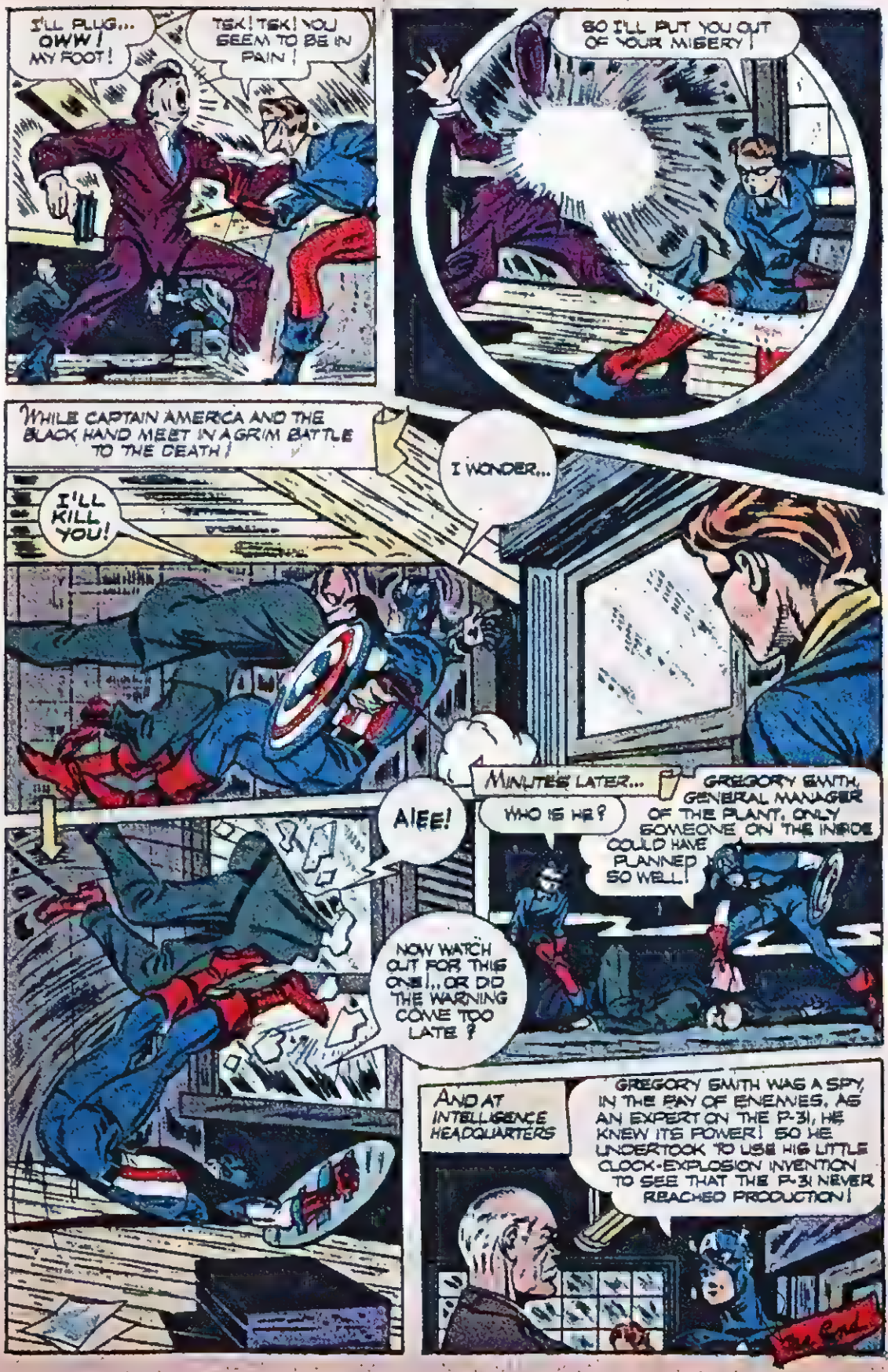

LATER, AT INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS...
LIEUTENANT JENSEN WAS OUR BEST OPERATIVE! HE WAS ON THE TRAIL OF A MASTER TERRORIST WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE BLACK HAND.
EVIDENTLY THE BLACK HAND CONSIDERED JENSEN TOO DANGEROUS TO LIVE!
WE FOUND THIS SCRAP OF TORN PAPER BESIDE JENSEN'S BODY! IT'S ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE ORGINAL MESSAGE! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, CAPTAIN AMERICA?
ALL YOU CAN READ ON IT IS THE NUMBER "31" EH? NOT MUCH TO GO ON!
31
AND THAT NIGHT, THROUGH DEEPENING SHADOWS, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY RACE ON SILENT FEET!
WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE, CAP?
PLAYING A HUNCH! THE EXPERIMENTAL LAB MAKING MODELS FOR THE NEW SECRET BOMBER CAN BE SEEN FROM THIS ROOF TOP!
THE SECRET BOMBER! YOU MEAN...
RIGHT! THE P-31! THIS MAY BE WHAT LIEUTENANT JENSEN MEANT BY THE NOTE! BUCKY... LISTEN!
AT THE FIRST STROKE OF MIDNIGHT, A SERIES OF SMALL EXPLOSIONS RIPS THROUGH THE EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORY...
HANG ON, BUCKY!
I'D SAY, LAD, THAT THIS IS THE BLACK HAND'S WORK... NO TIME TO WASTE!
4


CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY BURST INTO THE LAB...
CLEAR OUT OR YOU'LL ALL BE KILLED!
THE MODEL PLANE! IT MUST NOT BE DESTROYED! IT'S IN THE WORK ROOM!
I'LL GET IT!
CAP! COME BACK! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
JUST IN TIME, BUCKY PLUNGES TO SAFETY!
(MOAN) CAP'S DONE FOR! HE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THERE ALIVE!
BUT MEANWHILE...
WOW! THAT ONE NEARLY TOOK THE PLACE APART!
A GOOD TIME TO LEARN IF THIS MODEL PLANE WORKS! IF IT DOESN'T, I'LL BE THE ONLY MAN WHO EVER KNEW!
ROOM
IT WORKS! NOW IF I COULD ONLY GET IT DOWN TO THE STREET!
5


MY WEIGHT IS FORCING THE MODEL PLANE DOWN! BUT IT CERTAINLY DID THE JOB!
AND SOON...
I'D GIVEN UP HOPE! AM I GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE!
I'M RATHER PLEASED ABOUT IT MYSELF, KID!
BUT WHAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSIONS, CAP?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT IT'S PROBABLY SOME DEVILISH DEVICE SET OFF BY A CLOCK WHEN IT REACHES A CERTAIN HOUR!
NEXT DAY, AT AN ARMY BOARD OF INQUIRY...
WE CANNOT DETERMINE WHAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSION, BUT THANKS TO YOU, A WORKING MODEL OF THE P-31 WAS SAVED!
AND THAT MEANS WE'LL BE HEARING FROM THE BLACK HAND AGAIN SOON!
AT THIS MOMENT, THE BLACK HAND FINDS DISSENSION WITHIN HIS RANKS...
I DON'T WANT TROUBLE WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA! I'M QUITTING! AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME!
NO ONE IS STOPPING YOU, MY FRIEND! YOU CAN LEAVE AT ANY TIME!
YOU CAN'T LET HIM GO, BLACK HAND! HE MIGHT SQUEAL!
DON'T WORRY, HE WON'T GET FAR!
YOU SEE, IT'S NEARLY NOON.. SO IN A FEW MOMENTS HE WILL BOTHER US NO MORE!
BOOM!
GOSH! I FORGOT HE WUZ WEARIN' A WATCH! BUT YOU DON'T FORGET NUTTIN', BLACK HAND!
6


SUDDENLY THE INTENDED VICTIM BECOMES AWARE OF HIS DANGER!
THE RAY GUN!.. MY WATCH! I'VE GOT TO THROW IT AWAY!
TOO LATE! FOR, PRECISELY AT THE HOUR OF NOON---
GOOD HEAVENS! THAT MAN! HE--HE EXPLODED!
WHOOM!
AND BACK AT THE BLACK HAND'S HEADQUARTERS
YES! IT IS VERY USEFUL, BEING ABLE TO SEND EXPLOSIVE RADIATIONS TO ANY KIND OF TIME-PIECE! THE HANDS OF THE CLOCK MEET ... THE CLOCK EXPLODES! NEAT AND SIMPLE!
YER A GENIUS, BLACK HAND!
A FEW DAYS LATER, AT A LEADING AIRCRAFT PLANT...
A NOTE FROM THE BLACK HAND?
YES, SMITH! HE WARNS US NOT TO PUT THE P-31 INTO PRODUC-TION OR HE WILL DES-TROY THE PLANT!
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
ADVISE THE ARMY AT ONCE! THEY'LL ASSIGN MEN TO GUARD THE PLANT NIGHT AND DAY!
AND STEVE ROGERS AND BUCKY BARNES ARE ASSIGNED NIGHT SENTRY DUTY...
THE BLACK HAND'S OTHER ATTACKS CAME AT MIDNIGHT, SO WE'VE PROBABLY STILL GOT ANOTHER HOUR TO GO! HO HUM!
SAY, WHAT ARE THOSE MEN DOING WITH THAT CLOCK?
SUSPICION CRYSTALLIZES TO DREAD CERTAINTY...
PSST!...BUCKY! INTO YOUR COSTUME! IT'S TIME FOR ACTION!
RIGHT!
YAHOO!
THEY'RE SETTING THE CLOCK AHEAD TO MIDNIGHT!
IT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA! HE MUSTN'T STOP US!

YOU'RE AS GOOD AS STOPPED!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
OH! OH!
THANKS, BUCKY!
NOW -- PERMIT ME TO FINISH THE JOB!
GLADLY!
IN THE NICK OF TIME!
OH-H!
ALL RIGHT NOW! WHY WERE YOU ADJUSTING THOSE CLOCK HANDS?..OR SHALL I START IN ON YOU AGAIN?
N-NO! I'LL TALK! I'LL TELL YA EVERY-THING!
THE INCREDIBLE STORY IS SOON TOLD...
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THEM! WE'LL BE BACK ... WITH A FEW ADDITIONS!
AND A MOMENT LATER, IN AN ABANDONED TOWER NOT FAR FROM THE PLANE FACTORY...
WHY DON'T THE EXPLOSIONS START?
WELL, YOU SEE, THERE WAS A SLIGHT HITCH IN YOUR PALS' PLANS..
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
8


I'LL PLUG... OWW! MY FOOT!
TSK! TSK! YOU SEEM TO BE IN PAIN!
SO I'LL PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY!
WHILE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE BLACK HAND MEET IN A GRIM BATTLE TO THE DEATH!
I'LL KILL YOU!
I WONDER...
MINUTES LATER...
WHO IS HE?
GREGORY SMITH, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE PLANT. ONLY SOMEONE ON THE INSIDE COULD HAVE PLANNED SO WELL!
AIEE!
NOW WATCH OUT FOR THIS ONE!.. OR DID THE WARNING COME TOO LATE?
AND AT INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS
GREGORY SMITH WAS A SPY IN THE PAY OF ENEMIES. AS AN EXPERT ON THE P-31, HE KNEW ITS POWER! SO HE UNDERTOOK TO USE HIS LITTLE CLOCK-EXPLOSION INVENTION TO SEE THAT THE P-31 NEVER REACHED PRODUCTION!

SPECIAL TELESCOPE OFFER!

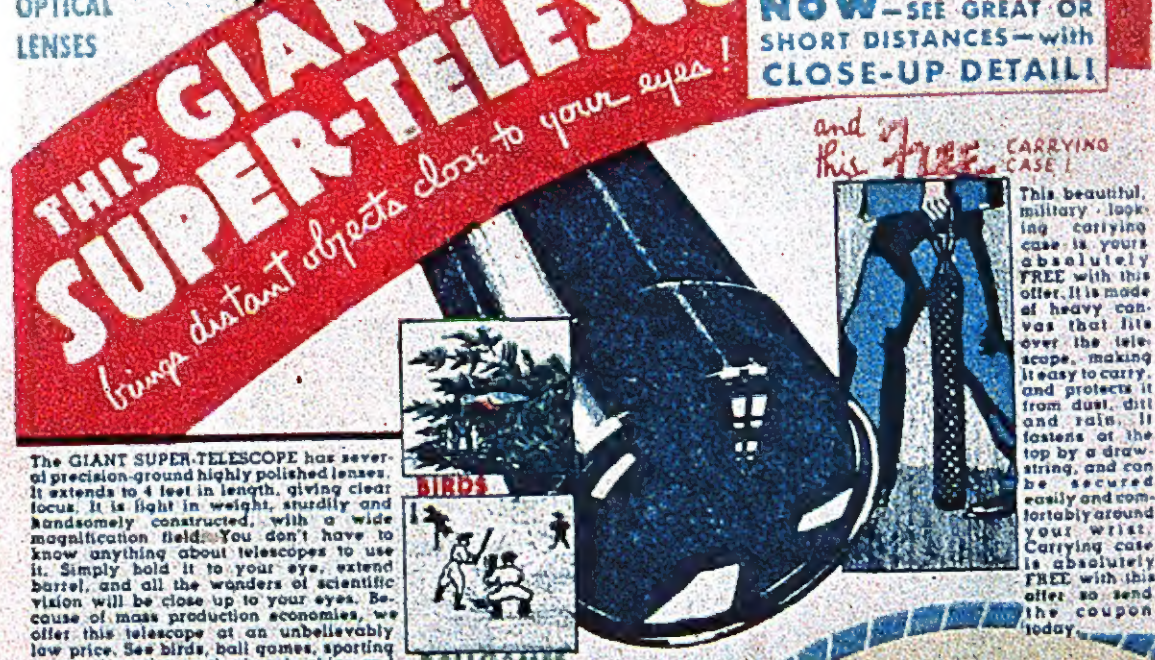
Here is the most remarkable offer that we have ever made. Now you can see most everything you want to see! Now you can bring distant objects so clearly close to your eye that they will seem almost near enough to touch. Why feel frustrated and baffled by something far away that you want to see in full detail. Why be limited in your vision when you can multiply it 13 to 15 times with the amazing super-powered lenses in this GIANT telescope. Quickly overcome the handicap of distance . . . the magnification does it like magic. This new telescopic invention is a miracle of mass production economy and engineering ingenuity. Made of available war-time materials, it is the equal in performance of telescopes that sell for as much as $15.00. Think of the wonderful fun you can have by extending your vision 30 miles in full, clear detail. Read on for full explanation of this really remarkable invention.

LARGE PRECISION-GROUND, OPTICAL LENSES

THIS GIANT, 30-MILE-RANGE, 4-FOOT SUPER-TELESCOPE with SUPER-POWER

brings distant objects close to your eyes!

NOW—SEE GREAT OR SHORT DISTANCES—with CLOSE-UP DETAIL!



and this FREE CARRYING CASE!

This beautiful, military-looking carrying case is yours absolutely FREE with this offer. It is made of heavy canvas that fits over the telescope, making it easy to carry, and protects it from dust, dirt and rain. It fastens at the top by a drawstring, and can be secured easily and comfortably around your wrist. Carrying case is absolutely FREE with this offer so send the coupon today.

The GIANT SUPER-TELESCOPE has several precision-ground highly polished lenses. It extends to 4 feet in length, giving clear focus. It is light in weight, sturdily and handsomely constructed, with a wide magnification field. You don't have to know anything about telescopes to use it. Simply hold it to your eye, extend barrel, and all the wonders of scientific vision will be close up to your eyes. Because of mass production economies, we offer this telescope at an unbelievably low price. See birds, ball games, sporting events, beauties on the beach, ships and planes, in full detail. See people when they cannot see you. See wild life, mountains, the heavens in their full natural beautiful detail. The price of the GIANT SUPER-POWERED TELESCOPE is $2.98 with this introductory offer. Most telescopes of this lense construction and size sell up to $15.00. We cannot assure you that the supply will last so you must act fast!

5 DAYS FREE TRIAL—RUSH COUPON

Just send coupon with $3.00 and get your GIANT TELESCOPE and FREE CARRYING CASE postage paid. If you prefer, just send coupon with no money and get yours C.O.D. at $2.98 plus new C.O.D. and postage charges. Use it for 5 days and if you are not satisfied, return it and your purchase price will be refunded. Send coupon today! Invention Co., P.O. Box 281, Church St. Annex, New York 8, N. Y.

INVENTION COMPANY, Dept. T-912
P.O. Box 281, Church Street Annex
New York 8, N. Y.

☐ I am enclosing $3.00. Send me TELESCOPE and FREE CARRYING CASE immediately. You pay postage. I can return in 5 days for full refund if I am not completely satisfied.

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman $2.98 plus new C.O.D. and postage charges on arrival. (Same money back guarantee as above).

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY & ZONE ..... STATE .....

Radio Servicing (left). Many N.R.I. Graduates operate their own successful full-time Radio repair businesses. Others hold regular jobs, make $5, $10 a week EXTRA fixing Radios in spare time.

Broadcasting Stations (right) employ N.R.I. trained men as Operators, Installation and Maintenance Men and pay well.

Radio Operators (below) find good jobs in Broadcasting Stations, Aviation, Police, and Ship Radio.

BE A SUCCESS ...IN RADIO!

I WILL TRAIN YOU AT HOME

J. E. SMITH
President
National Radio Institute

Our 30th Year of training Men for success in Radio.

I Trained These Men

Chief Operator Broadcasting Station

"Before I completed your lessons, I obtained my Radio Broadcast Operator's license and immediately joined Station WMPC where I am now Chief Operator." HOLLIS F. HAYES, 127 Madison St., Lapeer, Michigan.

$200 a Month in Own Business

"For several years I have been in business for myself making around $200 a month. Business has steadily increased." ARLIE J. FROEHNER, 300 W. Texas Ave., Goose Creek, Texas.

$10 a Week in Spare Time

"I repaired some Radio sets when I was on my tenth lesson. I made $600 in a year and a half and have made an average of $10 a week—just spare time." JOHN JERRY, 200 South H St., Exeter, California.

Here's your opportunity to get a good job in a busy field with a bright peacetime future! There is a shortage today of trained Radio Technicians and Operators. So mail the Coupon for my FREE, 64-page, illustrated book, "Win Rich Rewards in Radio." It describes many fascinating types of Radio jobs, tells how N.R.I. trains you at home in spare time—how you get practical experience building and testing Radio Circuits with SIX BIG KITS OF RADIO PARTS I send!

Big Demand Now For Well-Trained Radio Technicians, Operators

Keeping old Radios working is booming the Radio Repair business. Profits are large. After-the-war prospects are bright too. Think of the new boom in Radio Sales and Servicing that's coming when new Radios are again available—when Frequency Modulation and Electronics can be promoted—when Television starts its postwar expansion!

Broadcasting Stations, Aviation Radio, Police Radio, Loudspeaker Systems, Radio Manufacturing all offer good jobs now to qualified Radio men—and most of these fields have a big backlog of business that has built up during the war, plus opportunities to expand into new fields opened by wartime developments. You may never see a time again when it will be so easy to get a start in Radio!

Many Beginners Soon Make $5, $10 a Week EXTRA in Spare Time

The day you enroll for my Course I start sending you EXTRA MONEY JOB SHEETS that help show how to make EXTRA money fixing Radios in spare time while still learning. I send you SIX big kits of Radio parts, as part of my Course. You LEARN Radio fundamentals from my illustrated, easy-to-grasp lessons—PRACTICE what you learn by building real Radio Circuits—PROVE what you learn by interesting tests on the circuits you build!

Find Out What N.R.I. Can Do for You

MAIL THE COUPON for my FREE 64-page book. It's packed with facts—things you never knew about opportunities in Broadcasting, Radio Servicing, Aviation Radio, other Radio Fields. Read the details about my Course—"50-50 Training Method"—6 Experimental Kits—Extra Money Job Sheets. See the fascinating jobs Radio offers and how you can train at home. Read many letters from men I trained, telling what they are doing, earning. No obligation. Just MAIL COUPON in an envelope or pasted on a penny postal!—J. E. SMITH, Pres., Dept. 5AS2, National Radio Institute, Washington 9, D. C.

Television
Electronics
Frequency Modulation

My up-to-date Course includes training in these new developments.

Get this Book FREE

It has helped hundreds of men make more money.

You Get 6 Big Kits Of Radio Parts

By the time you've conducted 60 sets of Experiments with Radio Parts I supply—have made hundreds of measurements and adjustments—you'll have valuable PRACTICAL experience. The superheterodyne circuit shown here is just one unit you build. It will bring in local and distant stations.

FREE TO MEN WHO WANT BETTER JOBS

MR. J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. 5AS2
NATIONAL RADIO INSTITUTE, Washington 9, D. C.

Mail me FREE, without obligation, your 64-page book "Win Rich Rewards in Radio." (No salesman will call. Please write plainly.)

Age.....

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....

OUTGUESS THE WEATHERMAN

AMAZING FORECASTER

PREDICTS THE WEATHER 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE

READ ALL ABOUT THE "SWISS" WEATHER HOUSE AND **FREE** GIFT OFFER IF YOU ACT AT ONCE

7½" high—5" wide
4" deep
Made of Genuine Walnut

IMPORTANT!

This is not a cheap, undependable storm glass. The Weatherman Weather House is the original "Swiss" Weather House which actually tells you the weather in advance. Beware of Imitations.

BE YOUR OWN WEATHERMAN—
YOU'LL KNOW TOMORROW'S WEATHER TODAY

Why pay $5 or $10 for a barometer when you can predict the weather yourself, at home, 8 to 24 hours in advance, with this accurate, inexpensive Weather House forecaster? It's made like a little Swiss cottage, with a thatched green roof and small green shutters. Inside the house is an old witch and a little boy and girl. When the weather's going to be fine, the little boy and girl come out in front. But when bad weather is on the way the old witch makes an appearance. There is an easy-to-read thermometer on the front of the cottage that shows you the exact temperature.

You can depend on knowing the condition of the weather from eight to twenty-four hours in advance with this Weather House, made in U. S. A. . . . Everyone—business men, house wives, teachers, farmers, school children, laborers, doctors, lawyers, ministers, clubs and colleges can now predict the weather in advance. **Here is positively the most amazing introductory advertising offer ever made.** You must act quickly—prices may rise.

FREE for Prompt Action

GOOD LUCK LEAF
Lives on Air Alone

The greatest novelty plant ever discovered! Tradition is—a person owning one of these plants will have much good luck and success.

AS YOU RECEIVE IT

AS IT GROWS FOR YOU

EACH TINY PLANT PRODUCES THIS

Yours free—for prompt action. It will grow in your room pinned to the window curtain. This leaf grows a plant at every notch. The small plants may be detached and potted if desired. When planted in earth, it grows two feet tall and blooms beautifully. The blooms may be cut and dried and they will hold their beauty for years. This plant is being studied by some of our leading Universities and is rating very high in plant evolution.

HERE'S WHAT WEATHER HOUSE OWNERS SAY—

"My neighbors now phone me to find out what the weather is going to be. We certainly think the Weather House is marvelous." Mrs. I. S., Amsterdam, Ohio

"Please rush 6 more Weather Houses. I want to give them away as gifts. They are wonderful."
Mrs. I. P., South Bay, Maine

"I saw your Weather House at a friend's home and the way they raved about it, I decided to order one for myself. —Mrs. L. R., Chicago, Ill.

"Ever since I got my Weather House I've been able to plan my affairs a day ahead. It's wonderful."
Mrs. D.L.B., Shenandoah, Iowa

SEND NO MONEY

Sent to You on 100% Satisfaction Guarantee

Simply send the FREE Gift Offer coupon below for your "Swiss" Weather House and free Good Luck Leaf. When they arrive just deposit through your Postman $1.69 (your total cost), plus postage. Then test the Weather House for accuracy. Watch it closely, see how perfectly it predicts the weather in advance, then if you don't agree it's worth many dollars more than the small cost, simply return your Weather House within 10 days and get your money back promptly.

Almost every day of your life is affected in some way by the weather, and it's such a satisfaction to have a reliable indication of what the weather will be. With the "Swiss" Weather House and easy-to-read thermometer you have an investment in comfort and convenience for years to come. The Weather House comes to you complete and ready to use. Ideal for gifts and bridge prizes. It will bring new pleasure to everyone in your family. The price is only $1.69 C.O.D. You must act now to secure this price.

DOUBLE VALUE COUPON—MAIL TODAY

The Weather Man, Dept. MV
29 East Madison Street,
Chicago, Illinois

10 DAY TRIAL COUPON

Send at once (1) "Swiss" Weather House and Free Good Luck Leaf. On arrival, I will pay postman $1.69 plus postage with the understanding that the Weather House is guaranteed to work accurately. Also I can return the weather house for any reason within 10 days and get my money back.

☐ Send C.O.D. ☐ I enclose $1.69. You Pay Postage. Two for $2.98.

Name.....
(Please print plainly)

Address.....

City.....State.....

pmackscans@gmail.com